

Words of Woe

Sun, Mar 30, 2025

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome and Call to Worship Marcus Vajdos

Songs of Praise *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us / Cornerstone*

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Rachel Poysky

Song of Response *How Great Thou Art*

Ministry Moment Hannah Warren, Drew Tingleaf, and Miah Collins

Song of Preparation *Holy Forever*

Message **Words of Woe** Alf Halvorson
[Matt. \hew 23:27-28](#)

Song of Response *Oh but God*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship Michael Middleton

Song of Praise *This Is Amazing Grace / Cornerstone*

Moment of Connection & Assurance Matthew Adair

Song of Worship *Holy Forever*

Message **Words of Woe** Alf Halvorson
[Matthew 23:27-28](#)

Song of Response *Oh But God*

Ministry Moment Hannah Warren, Drew Tingleaf, and Miah Collins

Moment of Prayer & Connection Sally Henien

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;
JJ Blanco, keys; Michael Middleton & Angel Uribe, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Preludes *Meditation* George Dyson (1883-1964)

Welcome and Call to Worship Amanda Grace Morris

***Hymn of Praise #376** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Vs. 1, 3 | HYFRYDOL

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Luke Funderburk

***Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed**

Anthem *Lord, Bow Thine Ear from Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn

Ministry Moment Hannah Warren, Drew Tingleaf, and Miah Collins

Anthem of Preparation *If With All Your Hearts and Yet Doth the Lord from Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn

Message **Words of Woe** Alf Halvorson
[Matthew 23:23-26](#)

Hymn of Response *Ah, Holy Jesus* Vs. 2, 3, 4 | HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Postlude *Ah, Holy Jesus* arr. Peter Stearns (1931-2016)

Musicians at 11:15: Sanctuary Choir; Jeremy Lopez, soloist; Cassandra Black & Kelli Estes, duet;
Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

See more events at MDPC at events.mdpc.org



Sunday!
H-TOWN FAITH & WORK FELLOWS
at MDPC
Sun, Mar 30 after 9:45 Service
Are you a professional wondering about the purpose of your work in God's world? Join us in the courtyard to learn about H-Town Fellows. Learn more: fellows.mdpc.org



Sunday!
Elijah
featuring Michael Vaughn
Sun, Mar 30 • 6pm • Free Admission
MDPC and A&M United Methodist choirs and the Texas Southern University Singers present Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, with baritone Michael Vaughn. concerts.mdpc.org



Mon-Thu, Apr 14-17 • Chapel
Whether you are five or eighty-five, 15 minutes in The Spoken Word will enrich your Holy Week in an amazing way! Learn more and sign up at tsw.mdpc.org



Wed, Apr 2-16 • 10am-12pm
This free program will help you define your support network, get your documents in order, determine your next steps, and more. Register: caring.mdpc.org



Thu, Apr 3 • 6:45-8:30pm • Chapel
All college students and young adults are welcome to join us for a musical worship night. Light refreshments before the event in the Chapel. RSVP: yaevents.mdpc.org



Fri PM, Apr 4 and Sat AM, Apr 5
This class is how you can become an MDPC member or simply learn more about our church and ministries. Evening + morning, no overnight. Details: membership.mdpc.org



Order deadline: Palm Sun, Apr 13
Dedicate Easter Lilies in memory of and/or in honor of loved ones. Dedications may be purchased online at flowers.mdpc.org or in person at the Front Office.



Thu, Apr 10 • 6:30-8pm • Parlor/Chapel
Join us as all ages and stages gather to hear the stories from women just like you! Refreshments at 6pm, followed by the program in the Chapel: thewell.mdpc.org

2024 Outreach Giving Update

In addition to our regular 2024 partner gifts, our outreach committees worked diligently to find unique and impactful ways to bless our partners and those they serve with a special, one-time gift. The list, viewable at gifts2024.mdpc.org, shows how MDPC was able to bless our partners through these gifts, supporting critical projects and urgent needs. Thank you for your generosity and join us in praying for the ministries and lives being transformed through these gifts!

Financial Update as of Mar 23, 2025

2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	2,638,149
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	11,565,143

Births and Deaths

Mary Ruth Valerius passed away March 19. [More information at memorials.mdpc.org](https://memorials.mdpc.org).

Words of Woe • [Matthew 23:27-28](#)

This is our fifth message in our Lenten series. We focus on Woe #6 today. It is very similar to Woe #5 which talked about cleaning the outside of the cup but leaving the inside full of greed and self-indulgence. Jesus extends the contrast here in Woe #6, because the point is so important to Him, that the scribes and Pharisees look like "saints" on the outside, but they are really phonies, frauds, not good people on the inside. They are "whitewashed tombs," Jesus says.

1. When did something or someone in your life look much better on the outside than they or it did on the inside?
2. Read Matt. 23:27-28. How are these verses like and different from Matt. 23:25-26?
3. Define the words hypocrisy and lawlessness in verse 28.
4. Read Numbers 19:11-22 or if you are crunched for time, just Num. 19:11, 13, & 16.
5. In my message, I talked about how touching the dead or even touching tombs could make a person unclean. So, leading up to the great festivals in Jerusalem, they would paint or put bright white chalk on the graves so that pilgrims did not accidentally touch them, thus preventing them from offering their sacrifices to God at the temple. What point is Jesus trying to make, comparing the scribes and Pharisees to "whitewashed tombs"?
6. In my sermon, I spent quite a bit of time trying to answer these questions: How does someone get your attention when they want to tell you something important about yourself? How does God get our attention when God wants us to discover something about ourselves? How should someone communicate something important but potentially uncomfortable, even shameful? I said that in Scripture, God often uses stories. They are one step away from direct confrontation, and they often help us see that we are caught up in the same problems or dilemmas that the main character in the story is caught up in themselves. I shared several Scriptures to attempt to support my thesis. Did my argument make sense or not? How so? Or why not?
7. I've shared each week that Jesus is talking about the scribes and Pharisees, but He is talking to the crowd and disciples. If Jesus wants His disciples and the crowd to own the sin that the scribes and Pharisees have been committing too, how might we (by faith) admit that we need a Savior? That it is our sin, self-centeredness, broken promises, rebellion, regret, hypocrisy, lawlessness, and shame that sent Jesus to the cross?