

Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 4:1-15 NRSV | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the 8th in our fall series on Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians. Last Sunday, Paul encouraged the congregation to have confidence and boldness because of what had happened in the new covenant through Christ’s blood. The veil is lifted, and we do not need to approach the world with masks/armor/facades. This week, he suggests that, even though they still are under heavy pressure and undergoing real hardship because of persecution and internal conflict, they do not need to *lose heart*. The treasure, Jesus and His Gospel, is right in the middle of their mess to provide life and light in the darkness around them and in them.

1. When have you felt that the darkness had closed in on you or your situation? When have people lied about you or your actions? When have plans not advanced as you had hoped, even though you put in all the necessary effort?
2. Read 2 Cor. 4:1-15 and focus first on verses 1-6. What were the obstacles against Paul that he counters in verse 2? And how do you react to his contention in verses 3-5 that the ruler of this world (Satan) is part of the reason people have not come to faith? How does the light overcome the darkness of evil?
3. In verses 7- 10, Paul says we have a treasure in our broken earthly bodies as believers that helps us overcome and persevere. What is the treasure? Christ? The Gospel? Both? Something else too? Have you felt that power in your life before? Share with others.
4. In verses 11-12, Paul contends that somehow allowing death to happen in us allows the life of Christ to manifest itself in us—and for others, too. What do you think he is saying? And have you seen that happen in our world?
5. Finally, verses 13-15 suggest that any suffering we endure is overcome in the end with resurrection, thanksgiving, and the glory of God. Does Paul’s argument seem “pie in the sky” or does it have teeth and give you real hope in the midst of your real challenges? How does the hope of resurrection at the end of your life shape your attitude and actions in the middle of your life?

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Financial Update as of Nov 16, 2025	
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	10,699,562
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	3,503,730



BLESS Friday
Fri, Nov 28
Join the movement to honor Christ by starting the Christmas season with service! Transform Black Friday, a national shopping phenomenon, into Bless Friday, a spirit-filled service day. See a list of project suggestions at blessfriday.mdpc.org.

Church Planting Update
Sun, Nov 23 • 10:45-11:15 • Gathering Room
Come hear an update from the Church Planting Task Force about the developing vision for church planting through MDPC. You’ll hear why this conversation started, who is involved, where we are so far, and where we are headed.

Young Adult Worship Night
Thu, Dec 4 | 7-9pm | Sancutary Courtyard
You’re invited to a night of worship under the stars! Experience a peaceful evening of music, teaching, and prayer with others in their 20s and 30s. Free childcare available (must pre-register). RSVP: yaevents.mdpc.org

Spread a Little Christmas Cheer...
Sun, Dec 7 | 3:30-5:30pm | Fellowship Hall
by volunteering at the Family Christmas Festival! We need adults and teens to help with festive crafts, games, and more. Contact Keri Mosk, kmosk@mdpc.org.



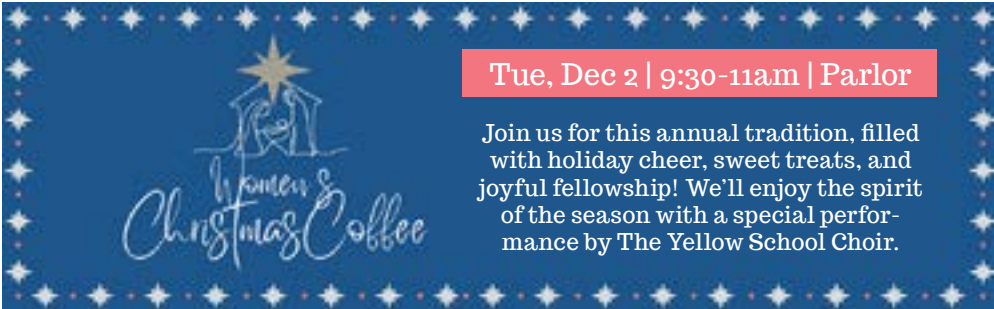
Toy Train
Delivery deadline: Sun, Dec 7
We need 100 toys for girls and boys ages 6-13! In the FORGE for Families Holly Jolly Store, parents and grandparents can purchase new toys at significantly reduced prices for the children in their family. You can help by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to the Toy Train (parked in front of Children’s Ministries).

Poinsettia Dedications
Order must be received by Fri, Dec 12.
Dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. On Christmas Eve, printed dedications will be at the Connection Center and included in the online bulletin. Purchase your dedications at flowers.mdpc.org.

Apply to Become a Stephen Minister
Applications due in Dec | Training starts Jan 13
Do others turn to you in times of need? Do you have a compassionate heart and a listening ear? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister, providing confidential one-to-one Christian care. To learn more, visit stephentraining.mdpc.org.

Volunteers (ages 14 and up) Needed
We need your help in preschool and elementary Sunday School! Join us once a month to help young children grow in their faith. Training and materials provided. Email Keri Mosk for more information: kmosk@mdpc.org

To view more events, visit events.mdpc.org.





8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship Rachel Poysky

*Worship Songs *He has Made Me Glad / Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee*
Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Amy Delgado

Worship Hymn *Blessed Assurance*

HEARING THE WORD

Message **Beautifully Broken** Alf Halvorson
2 Corinthians 4:1-15 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Song of Response *Gratitude*

SENDING

*Doxology OLD 100TH

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

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9:30 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Call to Worship Meliza Gómez

*Worship Songs *Freedom in This House*
Who You Say I Am

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Taylor Coleman

*Worship Songs *Trust in God*
Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

HEARING THE WORD

Message **Beautifully Broken** Alf Halvorson
2 Corinthians 4:1-15 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Song of Response *Gratitude*

SENDING

*Doxology OLD 100TH

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums | Fausto Cruz, guitar | JJ Blanco, keys | Uvaldo Callejas, bass
Tim Hughes, violin | Coppelia Acevedo & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude *Now Thank We All Our God* Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Call to Worship Beth Case

Choral Introit *What Shall I Render to My God* Allen Pote (b. 1945)

*Hymn of Praise *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*
Vs. 1, 2, 4 | #551 | ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon Amy Delgado

*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles’ Creed

*Congregational Response *Psalm 30: Come Sing to God* #181 | ELLACOMBE

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation *Psalm of Praise and Thanksgiving* Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

Message **Beautifully Broken** Alf Halvorson
2 Corinthians 4:1-15 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Anthem of Response *For the Beauty of the Earth* John Rutter (b. 1945)

Prayers of the People | The Lord’s Prayer Amy Delgado

SENDING

Closing Hymn *Now Thank We All Our God*
Vs. 1, 3 | #555 | NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

Postlude *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*
arr. Richard A. Nichols (b. 1969)

Musicians: MDPC Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, organist

*Please stand, if comfortable.



Family Christmas Festival

Sun, Dec 7 | 3:30-5:30pm

Free Admission

Bring your whole family for a petting zoo, inflatables, live music, games, crafts, and more! Please bring a **canned good** to support the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry.



A Musical Journey to Christmas

AND ON EARTH Peace

MDPC Concert Series

Sun, Dec 7 | 6pm | Sanctuary

Free Admission

MDPC Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra present a selection of songs and carols. Join us as we lift our voices in unity and embrace the true Peace of Christmas!

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out! Visit staff.mdpc.org for contact information and ministry areas.