

BIBLICAL PRAYERS



Praying Our Hate

Psalms 137 | Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 AM Service

June 7, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[Psalm 137](#)

Welcome

Beth Case

Songs of Praise

*Everlasting God
Hosanna*

Lincoln Brewster
Brooke Ligertwood

Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Beth Case

Songs of Response

Lord, I Need You

Matt Maher

Moment of Prayer

Clay Brown

Song of Preparation

Blessed Be Your Name

Matt Redman

Message

Praying Your Hate

Alf Halvorson

Song of Response

*I Know
God is So Good*

Big Daddy Weave
Traditional

Sharing Our Gifts/Benediction

Alf Halvorson

Call to Worship

Beth Case

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Psalms 137 | Alf Halvorson preaching

9:45 AM Service

June 7, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[Psalm 137](#)

Song of Praise	<i>Glorious Day</i>	Kristian Standfill
Kids' Moment		Kelly Quarando
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Amy Delgado
Songs of Response	<i>Lord, I Need You</i> <i>King of my Heart</i>	Matt Maher Brooke Ligertwood
Message	<i>Praying Your Hate</i>	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>I Know</i> <i>God is So Good</i>	Big Daddy Weave Traditional
Moment of Prayer		Clay Brown
Sharing Our Gifts/Benediction		Alf Halvorson

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11:15 AM Service

June 7, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[Psalm 137](#)

Prelude	<i>French Suite</i>	Gordon Young (1919-1998)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>With a Voice of Singing</i>	Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
*Prayer of Confession, Assurance, & Affirmation		Beth Case
*Congregational Response	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	
Anthem	<i>The Holy City</i>	Stephen Adams (1841-1913)
Pastoral Prayer		Clay Brown
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Sweet Hour of Prayer</i>	arr. Jack Schrader (b. 1942)
Message	<i>Praying Your Hate</i>	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>Take My Life</i>	HENDON
Sharing Our Gifts/Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Trumpet Tune</i>	John Stanley (1712-1786)

BIBLICAL PRAYERS



Praying Our Hate

Psalms 137 | Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the second in our Summer Sermon Series on Biblical Prayers. Because of all the unrest, rioting, and conversation around justice & race in our Country and World right now in the wake of the death of George Floyd, I wanted us to ponder one of the most challenging prayers in the entire Bible. Psalm 137 is sub-titled in my Bible, “A Lament over the Destruction of Jerusalem.” The Israelites had lost a fierce brutal war; Jerusalem and the Temple were sacked; the walls were broken down; and a common practice in war at that time was to kill children—because children represented the future of a people, the next generation. Then the elite were taken into captivity; and these displaced ones were mocked and sarcastically taunted to sing the Lord’s Song in a foreign land. Psalm 137 emerges from that deep woundedness and sorrow and pain.

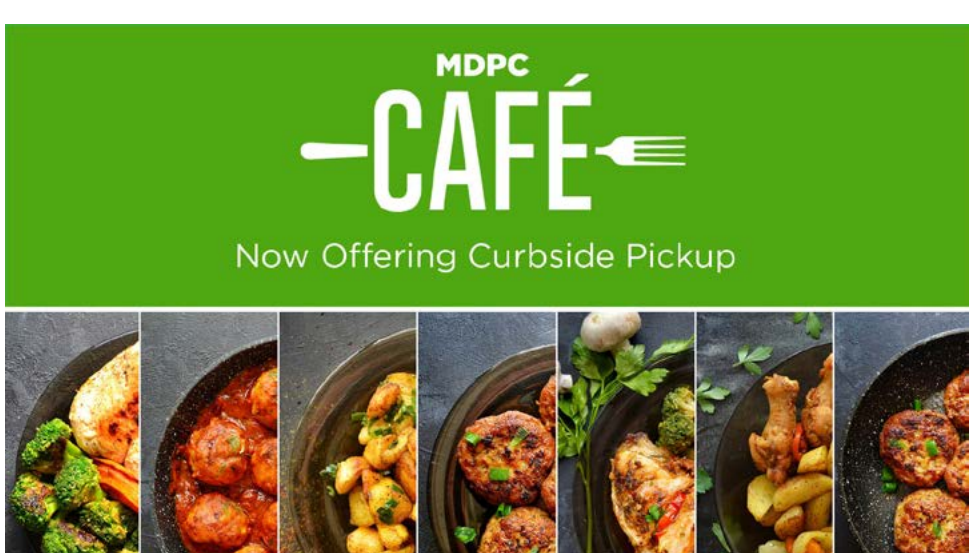
1. [Read Psalm 137](#) as if you were one of the Israelites in a foreign land asked by your captors to be “happy and positive.” What does it mean to you that words like these are included in Holy Scripture? Is it comforting to you or troubling to you?
2. According to verses one through six, why did the author weep? Why is this prayer a lament?
3. Verse seven asks the readers or hearers (and God) to remember the devastating loss from the past at the hands of the Edomites. And verse eight talks in the present about visceral feelings toward Israel’s captor and devastator, Babylon. Why do you think this writer/prayer needs others and God to know and feel and relate to his or her pain? The writer is asking for justice now. Is it wrong to ask justice of God? (or “ask God for justice?”)
4. Verse nine may be one of the most troubling verses in all of Scripture. But remember, not everything that is contained in Scripture is endorsed there. There are a lot of things included in Scripture that are not approved of there. How do I know? Read [Deuteronomy 32:35](#); [Leviticus 19:17-18](#); [Exodus 23:4-5](#); [Proverbs 24:17; 25:21](#); and [Matthew 5:43-48](#). What do these verses say we can and should do with our hate?
5. I ended my sermon with the somewhat known story of Alfred Nobel. He created one kind of legacy with the first part of his life; but he had a chance to create another kind of legacy with the second part of his life. Hate is a natural place to start; but a tragic place to end. Are you more like early-Nobel or late-Nobel? More like Psalm 137 or Matthew 5? How can we move forward, even when others or we ourselves have been hurt? How can God help us move toward reconciliation amongst peoples because of Christ?



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

June 7, 2020

Look through these upcoming events - most online, but some in-person, You'll find opportunities to serve, study, grow, and share. To see all that is being offered, visit events.mdpc.org.



The **MDPC** Café is back, serving up delicious prepared meals - and now offering convenient curbside (and limited delivery) service. Check out the menu and order by visiting cafe.mdpc.org. To learn more about delivery options, call Miguel Perez at 713-953-2571.



Children's Ministries staff are excited to report that Summer Celebration 2020 will move forward with a different format, but with a variety of fun-filled programs, both digital and in-person. Visit summercel.mdpc.org for program specifics.



In this time of COVID-19, the demand for volunteers is ongoing. Help us bless our ministry partners, like **MDPC** Fuente Food Pantry, Kids' Meals, and Houston Food Bank. Discover opportunities to help at action.mdpc.org.



Even in this time of social distancing, we can still develop new friendships and find deeper meaning in our personal interactions. Brett Hurst is helping to facilitate mentoring relationships in a revised program called Patio Chats. To learn all the details, visit chats.mdpc.org.



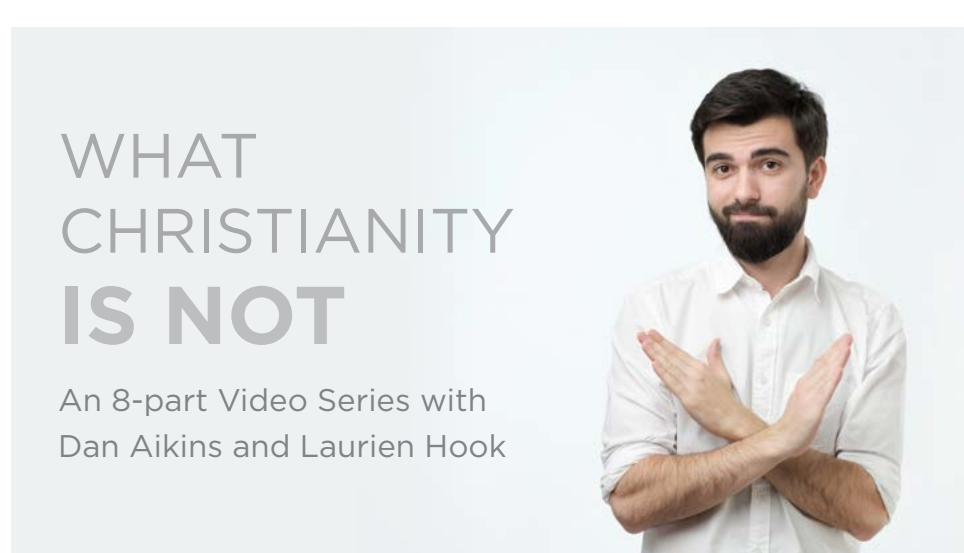
With nearly 32 million cancer survivors worldwide, everyone knows someone whose life has been touched by cancer. Today, people around the world will come together to acknowledge these survivors and to raise awareness of the challenges they face. [Click here](#) to learn more about opportunities available.



Are you engaged or newly married? Join Brett and Kellie Hurst in July (via Zoom) for Married Life Prep. Their goal is to help engaged and young married couples experience a rich fullness in marriage. Learn more & register at mlp.mdpc.org.



MDPC is now hosting limited-capacity in-person worship. Visit open.mdpc.org to learn more about plans to keep those on our campus safe and healthy. If you prefer to continue worshipping safely at home, we affirm your decision!



Pastor Dan Aikins and seminarian Laurien Hook have teamed up for a series of brief videos on *What Christianity Is Not*. These eight videos cover a variety of common myths and misconceptions of the Christian faith. Visit not.mdpc.org to view the entire series.



For a daily dose of encouragement, follow our Monday-Saturday devotionals recorded by **MDPC** Pastors and leadership. Visit dailydevos.mdpc.org, to hear brief examinations of Scripture, coping mechanisms, and other spirit-lifting subjects.



Counselor-in-residence Amanda Grace Caldwell, has curated a series of videos by accredited guests that will help you deal with some of the emotional issues associated with the shutdown. Visit counselingtips.mdpc.org to view the series.



Looking for good, healthy, and FUN content for your children? View the weekly Sunday School lessons by Preschool Director Mayra Escamilla and Elementary Director Lyndsey Dottavio. Visit preschoollessons.mdpc.org or elementarylessons.mdpc.org.



In this three-part workshop-intended for our turbulent times-you'll read classical and contemporary texts and explore what makes a psalm. As we explore the emotional tenor of the psalms, we'll practice expressing our own hopes and laments. Email Amanda Grace (acaldwell@mdpc.org) to register.



Ladies, come learn something new, eat something good, work out your stresses, or just make new friends at these one-off events! Flexibility is the name of the game this summer. Learn more and register at ttc.mdpc.org.