



Radical PREPARATION

Matthew 25:1-13

8:30 AM Service

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[Matthew 25:1-13](#)

Welcome & Call to Worship

Dave Steane

Songs of Praise

Give Me Oil in My Lamp
How Marvelous

PUBLIC DOMAIN
Chris Tomlin

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Brett Hurst

Song of Response

Amazing Grace

John Newton

Moment of Prayer

Dave Steane

Song of Preparation

See a Victory

Chris Brown

Message

Radical Preparation

Alf Halvorson

Communion

All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.

Song of Response

New Thing

Ben Hastings

Opportunity to Give & Benediction

Alf Halvorson



Sunday Worship Playlist

[Click here to listen](#)

Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

Each week, we pray for three of **MDPC's** local and global mission partners. During these difficult days, our partners truly covet your prayers! Visit partners.mdpc.org to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.



9:45 AM Service

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[Matthew 25:1-13](#)

Welcome & Call to Worship

Songs of Praise

*Great Things
This Is Amazing Grace*

Phil Wickham
Phil Wickham

Kids' Moment

Children's Ministries

***Moment of Confession & Assurance**

Laura Miller

Songs of Response

*New Thing
See a Victory*

Ben Hastings
Chris Brown

Message

Radical Preparation

Alf Halvorson

Communion

All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.

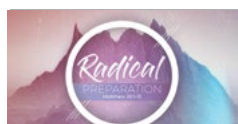
Song of Response

New Thing

Ben Hastings

Opportunity to Give & Benediction

Alf Halvorson



Sunday Worship Playlist

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Radical
PREPARATION
Matthew 25:1-13

11:15 AM Service

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[Matthew 25:1-13](#)

Prelude	<i>Phantasy on "Holy, Holy, Holy"</i>	Piet Post (1919-1979)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Dave Steane
Choral Introit	<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i>	arr. George Lynn (1915-1989)
* Hymn of Praise	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty</i>	NICAEA
* Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Christyn Knoop
* Affirmation of Faith	from the United Church of Canada	
* Congregational Response	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Keep Your Lamps</i>	arr. Andre Thomas (b. 1952)
Message	<i>Radical Preparation</i>	Alf Halvorson
Communion	<i>All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.</i>	
Communion Anthem	<i>Peace to the World</i>	Hyun Kook (b. 1967)
Opportunity to Give & Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Phantasy on "Holy, Holy, Holy"</i>	Piet Post (1919-1979)

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Sunday, October 4, 2020

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

To see more events at MDPC, visit events.mdpc.org.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of September 27, 2020

2020 Annual Budget	\$12,300,000
Income to Date	\$7,322,651
Needed to Meet Budget	\$4,977,349



Much of what was the Christian world is now dominated by secularism and relativism. How do we respond to this? You'll gain an in-depth understanding, be inspired to personal revival, and come away equipped with practical next steps in this four-evening course. Learn more at jisw.mdpc.org.



Ladies, are you tired of waiting? For a nap, for a breakthrough, to be seen, to be heard? Join us at The Well on October 14 where we'll hear Jenny Nettles, Barbara Mueller, Stella Chen, and Rosy Silva share stories of how God has met them in their "waiting." Learn more and RSVP at thewell.mdpc.org



Begin the conversation by engaging with one another - every voice belongs at this table so that we can become the people we were created to be. Four nights over two weeks in October, via Zoom. Visit workshop.mdpc.org to learn more.



This week's newest opportunity is a call from Samaritan's Purse for volunteers in the areas ravaged by natural disasters. Learn where and what help is needed at action.mdpc.org.



This fall, MDPC will study the Book of ACTS, beginning the week of August 16, and will include existing Sunday School classes, Sunday morning [pastor-led classes](https://pastor-led-classes.mdpc.org), and a Wednesday night small group. Visit [ACTS.mdpc.org](https://acts.mdpc.org) for details. No registration required.



The third study in The Equipped Disciple multi-course small group curriculum is ready to download! Equipping Pastor Clay Brown will facilitate two small groups for The Studying Disciple beginning September 29. Details and registration are at studying.mdpc.org.



From caring for a loved one with dementia to grief support and more, MDPC Caring Ministries and its partners continue to offer support, even if it has to be "virtual." To learn more, visit caring.mdpc.org.



REACH classes this fall include Yoga, Tumbling & Gymnastics, Abrakadoodle, Piano, Tap & Jazz, Chess, and the MDPC seasonal favorite Gingerbread House Event! Learn more and sign up at reach.mdpc.org.



Children's Ministries Sunday School is moving to YouTube! We will have Sunday School for Preschool and Elementary Kids on our YouTube channel from 10:45-11:15 AM for our Preschool and Elementary Kids. [Click here](https://kidslive.mdpc.org) to learn more.



Research shows certain marriage prep programs to be particularly effective at preventing divorce, lowering the risk by as much as 75%. [Married Life Prep](https://marriedlifeprep.org) is approved by Twogether in Texas, and program graduates can have their Texas marriage license fee waived! A new 4-week class starts January 10.



Join us for an outdoor showing of the movie *Trolls: World Tour*, on Friday, November 6! The event is on the MDPC Ball Field. Social distancing measures must be observed. Learn more and register your family at movie.mdpc.org.



This is the fourth in our eight-part sermon series looking at our Radical God (radical in love, grace, forgiveness, and giving, and also radical in returning us to the root of things) and the radical responses we can offer to show allegiance to God and to extend His purposes in our life and world. Today we look at Preparation. It is not an exciting word, but often it makes all the difference in the world regarding the quality of our lives and in finding joy and peace.

1. Can you recall a time when someone was unprepared and you experienced the negative result of their lack of preparation? And a time when *you* were unprepared and regretted it? And when did you plan ahead, and you (and others) reaped the benefits? Share stories.
2. Read [Matthew 25:1-13](#). Often in Jesus' Parables, He sets up a comparison. Look closely at the actions of the wise and the foolish bridesmaids. Where are they similar (even identical)? And where are they different?
3. Ponder the differences between the wise and the foolish for a few minutes. If the groom had arrived on time, the foolish would not have had a problem. But since the groom was delayed, their lack of preparation was revealed. Life is filled with *waiting*. Are you good at *waiting* or bad at it? Where are you *waiting* right now? For what? How does our "life of faith" often involve *waiting*? In the *waiting*, what can this parable teach us? What might *purposeful waiting* look like for you? And how does procrastination fit into this conversation?
4. In verses 8-9, it seems at first sight that the wise bridesmaids are not very good sharers with those who are in need. Shouldn't they have been nicer or more helpful? I suggested in my sermon that maybe what Jesus is trying to show is some things are not easy to purchase at the last minute; some things cannot be borrowed in the end. For instance, for how long can you borrow faith from another person? Have you borrowed the faith of others in the past? When, in the past (or, do you predict, in the future), has your faith had to be your own? In other words, there are times when you cannot borrow a relationship with God. Do you agree with that statement or disagree? Discuss.
5. In the New Testament, the Church (the Body of Christ) is portrayed as the Bride and Jesus as the Groom. In fact, [Revelation 19:7 and 9](#) says, "*The marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready...Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.*" The eleventh hour is not the best time to prepare for the most important things in life. How might you prepare *now*? What decisions might be made and what disciplines incorporated now so you are ready for the Groom and the banquet whenever He arrives?

