



FOR *God* SO LOVED THE
WORLD

It Bears All Things
1 Corinthians 13:7-12
Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 AM Service

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[1 Corinthians 13:7-12](#)

Welcome

Dave Steane

Call to Worship & Advent Readings

Brett Hurst & Family

Song of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Tomlin

***Prayer of Confession & Assurance**

Brett Hurst

Song of Preparation

What a Beautiful Name / O Come, Let Us Adore Him

arr. Hillsong

Message

It Bears All Things

Alf Halvorson

Communion

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

Song of Response

Joy to the World / King of Kings

arr. Hillsong

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.



FOR *God* SO LOVED THE
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It Bears All Things

1 Corinthians 13:7-12

Alf Halvorson preaching

9:45 AM Service

Sunday, December 6, 2020

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[1 Corinthians 13:7-12](#)

Welcome, Call to Worship, & Advent Readings Mauricio Chacón & Family

Song of Praise *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Tomlin

Kids' Moment Children's Ministries

Moment of Confession & Assurance Amanda Grace Caldwell

Song of Preparation *What a Beautiful Name / O Come* arr. Hillsong

Message *It Bears All Things* Alf Halvorson

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

First Communion Participants

Jacob Alexander, Harrison Bishop, Sophie Bishop, Madeline Dillard, Eliza Ann Ollison, Charlotte Taylor, Drew Teegarden, Brynn Wallis

Song of Response *Joy to the World / King of Kings* arr. Hillsong

Opportunity to Give & Benediction Alf Halvorson



Sunday Worship Playlist

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FOR *God* SO LOVED THE
WORLD

It Bears All Things

1 Corinthians 13:7-12

Alf Halvorson preaching

11:15 AM Service

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[1 Corinthians 13:7-12](#)

Prelude	<i>Fantasy on Greensleeves</i>	arr. Brian Henkelmann (b. 1950)
Welcome		Christyn Knoop
Call to Worship & Advent Readings		Beth Case & Family
*Hymn of Praise	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	VENI EMMANUEL
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Christyn Knoop
Affirmation of Faith	from Romans 8	
*Congregational Response	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	GLORIA
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Love Never Ends</i>	James Biery (b. 1956)
Message	<i>It Bears All Things</i>	Alf Halvorson
Communion	<i>All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.</i>	
Communion Meditation		G. F. Handel (1686-1759)
	<i>Aria and Chorus: O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion (from Messiah)</i>	
Opportunity to Give & Benediction		
Postlude	<i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</i>	arr. Daniel Kelley (b. 1960)

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Sunday, December 6, 2020

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of November 29, 2020

2020 Annual Budget	\$12,300,000
Income to Date	\$9,676,216
Needed to Meet Budget	\$2,623,784



We have a variety of service times and attendance options for Christmas Eve. For the LIVE services, please RSVP to attend in-person (as circumstances permit) or join us online (no matter what!). Details at christmaseve.mdpc.org.



NEW THIS YEAR! Shop and pay online at market.mdpc.org, then stop by Mission Market in the Lobby on Sundays or Front Office on weekdays to pick up your cards and envelopes. It's fast, simple, and safe!



Join us for a trip around the world! When you register for this Saturday's Virtual Mission Trip, you'll reserve a fun Travel Box and, via Zoom, travel to Myanmar, Serbia, and Peru. Learn more at world.mdpc.org.



Enjoy outdoor Christmas fun for the whole family at Children's Ministries annual Christmas Festival on December 6! See what's in store and more at festival.mdpc.org.



A virtual Christmas Concert featuring beloved selections from the **MDPC** Sanctuary Choir's past seasonal performances. Join us for one of TWO airings - each with live online hosts - on Sunday, December 13: christmasconcert.mdpc.org



Research shows certain marriage prep programs to be particularly effective at preventing divorce, lowering the risk by as much as 75%. **Married Life Prep** 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.



Merry, or not-so-merry, all are welcome at Blue Christmas. There'll be times for connection in person or in a drive-through format, and a 30-minute contemplative worship service in the Courtyard. Learn more at blue.mdpc.org.



FPU's focus on behavior change is a different view of personal finance. Most folks know what to do with money, but not how to do it. Millions have followed Dave Ramsey's plan out of debt and into a life of saving and giving. You can, too! Learn more at fpu.mdpc.org.



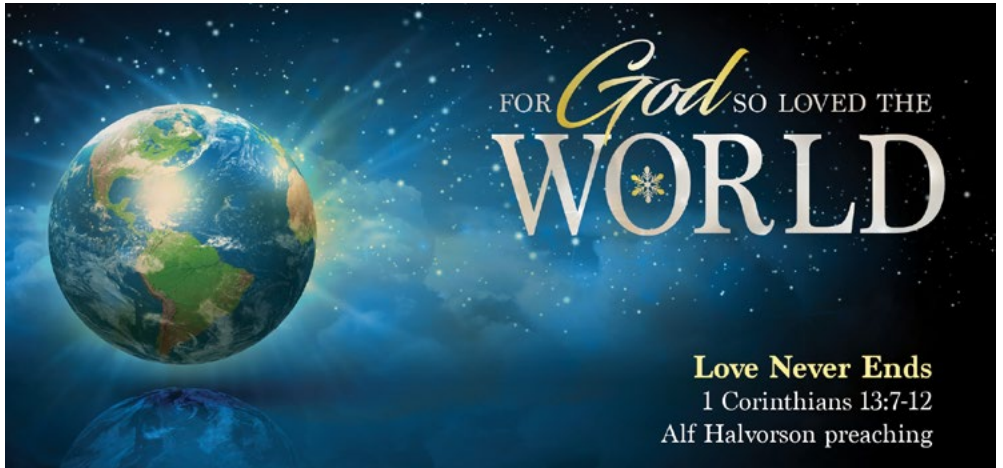
Sunday childcare currently is available for children five and under. Visit children.mdpc.org to see our Sunday morning health and safety protocols. For The Galaxy elementary Sunday school, just text Galaxy F2F to the number 94000 so we know you are coming!



Consider the highs and lows of this past year. How wonderful is it to know that, as a member of the **MDPC** family, *your* name has been lifted in prayer each day by your assigned Partner in Prayer? Be part of this quiet, meeting-free, self-led ministry. Sign up at pip.mdpc.org.



CONNECTION is our Sunday program for Middle and High School students where we come together for fellowship, teaching, and worship. 11:15 AM in the Youth Loft; more info at connection.mdpc.org.



This is the fifth in our series leading up to Christmas on 1 Corinthians 13 and the topic of Agape Love. We diagnosed shallow substitutes for love (according to Paul) in verses 1-3, we fleshed out two positive qualities (*patient, kind*) in verse 4a, and we walked through eight negative characteristics that are not agape. Now we get to five new qualities of this love, then a set of illustrations of things that are partial and not complete, or temporary and not permanent, except love.

1. If Advent is about waiting (waiting for God in the Christ child to arrive), then we are quite familiar with things that are partial and not complete—or temporary and not permanent. For what things in your life (or in our world right now) are you sick of waiting, because they are incomplete?
2. Read [1 Corinthians 13:7-12](#) in a couple different translations. In verses 7-8a, Paul offers five sweeping claims about agape to end that section with a flourish. Does his summary ring true for you? For example, what does “believes all things” mean? Didn’t we just say in verse 6 that love rejoices in the truth?
3. I said in my reading of the Scripture that Ralph Martin, a well-respected British New Testament Scholar, helped me understand these five phrases. *Panta* in Greek does not mean “all things” as the best translation, but, rather, “always.” The NIV Translation picks up on this insight. So, these verses could be translated “*always it covers; always it believes; always it hopes; always it endures; Love never ends (or, rather, is eternal).*” Another way of saying it is “*There is nothing agape love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance.*” How does that explanation change your reading and understanding here?
4. Focus on verses 8b-12. How would you summarize what Paul is trying to say here in one or two sentences? Why did the Corinthians and why do we seem to prize prophecy, tongues, and knowledge (some of the gifts of God from chapter 12) so highly? How can agape love be even higher or more important?
5. There is a Christian praise song which says, “I am fully known and loved by You (God).” We fear that if God or others fully knew us, they would run from us and hate us. In what ways does the Bible say that God fully “agapes” us even though He fully knows us? How does verse 12 help?
6. Where and how might we extend the agape love we have received by God back to Him and outward to others who cross our path in the coming days?