

Welcome to MDPC!

app.mdpc.org

connectonline.mdpc.org

give.mdpc.org

Easy Check-in!

Download the free MDPC app to your iPhone or Android.

Guest Registry

5 quick questions to help us get to know you better!

Give Online

Make one-time or recurring gifts with ease.





Christmas Questions

Advent 2021



8:30a Service
First Sunday of Advent, Nov 28, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Luke 2:1-7 \(NRSV\)](#)

Welcome and Call to Worship

Beth Case

Songs of Praise *O Come, All Ye Faithful/Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
Spirit of the Living God

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Brett Hurst

Song of Response *O Come, Emmanuel*

Moment of Prayer

Beth Case

Song of Preparation *Prince of Heaven*

Message **Questions: Why This Time?**
[Luke 2:1-7 \(NRSV\)](#)

Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Opportunity to Give and Benediction

Alf Halvorson



Sunday Worship Playlist

[Click here to listen.](#)

Give Online

give.mdpc.org

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.



Christmas Questions

Advent 2021

9:45a Service
First Sunday of Advent, Nov 28, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Luke 2:1-7 \(NRSV\)](#)

Advent Readings and Call to Worship

Songs of Praise *O Come, All Ye Faithful/Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
Spirit of the Living God

Moment of Confession and Assurance

Dan Aikins

Song of Preparation

Promises

Message

Questions: Why This Time?
[Luke 2:1-7 \(NRSV\)](#)

Alf Halvorson

Song of Response

Prince of Heaven

Opportunity to Give and Benediction

Alf Halvorson



Sunday Worship Playlist

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Christmas Questions

Advent 2021



11:15a Service
First Sunday of Advent, Nov 28, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Luke 2:1-7 \(NRSV\)](#)

Prelude	<i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Welcome and Call to Worship		Dan Aikins
Advent Readings		
Choral Introit	<i>O Come, O Come Immanuel</i>	arr. John Rutter (b.1945)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	#2; Vs. 1, 2 HYFRYDOL
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Lyndsey Dottavio
*Affirmation of Faith	from The Apostles' Creed	
*Congregational Response	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	#23; Vs. 1, 2 GLORIA
Anthem	<i>Rose Without Thorns (from Magnificat)</i>	Michael John Trotta (b.1978)
Pastoral Prayer		Dan Aikins
Anthem of Preparation	<i>The Yearning</i>	Craig Courtney (b.1948)
Message	Questions: Why This Time? Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>To God Be the Glory</i>	#485; Vs. 1 TO GOD BE THE GLORY
Opportunity to Give and Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</i>	arr. Rob Landes (b.1941)

Musicians in this service:
Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

MDPC Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

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Give Online
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Sunday, Nov 28, 2021

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of Nov 21, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 8,824,047
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 2,475,953



Sunday, Dec 5 • 6:00pm • Sanctuary • Free admission

The MDPC Sanctuary Choir and a 40-piece orchestra - the largest in Concert Series history - present a Christmas concert of beautiful seasonal music. All are invited to this free community event. Details at concerts.mdpc.org.



Tuesday, Dec 7 • 9:30-11:00am • Parlor

Ladies, this year's Christmas Coffee will be in-person again! Mark your calendar and join us for coffee, treats, and wonderful conversation. The event's posted at coffee.mdpc.org. Share the link with friends!



Sat, Dec 11 • 11:30am • Downtown (meet at MDPC)

Come to the MDPC Choir's annual **Caroling with the Homeless** event! We'll sing, offer pizza, and give out gloves and socks. Learn more at caroling.mdpc.org.



Register Now for Spring Recreation Classes!

Kids classes include Basketball, Chess, Tumbling & Gymnastics, Abrakadoodle Art, Woodworking, Piano, Soccer, Theater, and Dance. Adults can enjoy Art, Piano, and two kinds of Yoga! Learn more and sign up at reach.mdpc.org.



Sun mornings • MDPC Kitchen (off Fellowship Hall)

Delicious, carry-friendly options for those rushed Sundays when there's no time for breakfast! Stop by to see what items are for sale. More about the Café including lunch hours and frozen pantry options at cafe.mdpc.org.



Donate through Dec 5

Christmas for Kids and Toy Train are back, and we hope you'll help make this a merry Christmas for some local kids. See what, how, and when to donate at cfk.mdpc.org.



Sunday, Dec 5 • 4:00-6:00pm • North Parking Lot • Free!

Last year's Family Christmas Festival was such a blast, we're holding it outdoors again! Come for games, treats, and prizes and invite your friends. It's free and open to EVERYONE! Details at kids.mdpc.org.



Wednesday, Dec 8 • 5:30-7:00pm

Blue Christmas is designed specifically for those who need their spirit lifted regardless of the season - or maybe even because of it. Learn more at blue.mdpc.org.



Sundays in Lobby • Weekdays in Front Office • Online

Give the gift of hope! Each card purchased in the amount of your choosing for friends and loved ones supports an MDPC ministry partner. Learn more at market.mdpc.org.



Need a soft place to land? Unsure of where to go next? Learn more about our short-term counseling ministry by emailing **MDPC** counselor-in-residence Amanda Grace Caldwell, or visit counseling.mdpc.org.



Sign up today, and pray with confidence...

God will know your Prayer Partners' needs, you just lift the dozen or so names to Him daily. Join us in this foundational MDPC ministry at pip.mdpc.org.



[Luke 2:1-7](#) • Christmas Questions: Why This Time?

This is the first of a seven-week series on questions surrounding Advent and Christmas. Many do not know the basic context and history of the Incarnation (God in the flesh), especially our more secular relatives and neighbors. So let's be great neighbors and provide that information this year. And even for many followers of Jesus, sometimes churches do not provide the necessary background to make the Scriptures come alive in their original context—and enable them to come alive in our context today, too.

1. What were your (family of origin) traditions leading up to and at Christmas? What new traditions have you added or changed in adulthood? Is it easy for you to get into the Spirit of Christmas or hard? Why do you think? I gave a few examples of why it is hard for me to get into Christmas mood.
2. Read Luke 2:1-7. Who were the people in charge? Why do you think they are listed? And why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem? What does the connection with David mean for the new baby?
3. When Jesus was born, were Mary and Joseph officially married? What wrinkle or wrinkles does that add to the history for you? And where was Jesus laid after the delivery? How might that help those who are displaced to feel God has been where they are and understands them?
4. I talked in my message about the providence of God, who uses earthly circumstances to advance the purposes of heaven. Do you think of fate being in charge or history or humans or ultimately God? Discuss and defend your answer.
5. Read Galatians 4:4-7. I used Malcom Gladwell's book, *The Tipping Point*, and Gerald Sitter's book, *Resilient Faith*, to explain some of the reasons why the first century A.D. was the ideal time for the Savior to be born; and the perfect yet challenging time for Christians to offer a third way witness in the world to the hope they found in Christ. What was compelling to you from those sources? And what questions do you still have that can be discussed in your group?
6. While you wait for Christmas to come this Advent, how might you look for small but significant tipping points of God's inbreaking in your life and in our world this year? And how might your life (time, talent, or treasure) serve as a positive tipping point in your family or workplace or neighborhood for the Gospel?

