

# *Welcome to MDPC!*

[app.mdpc.org](https://app.mdpc.org)

[connectonline.mdpc.org](https://connectonline.mdpc.org)

[give.mdpc.org](https://give.mdpc.org)

## ***Easy Check-in!***

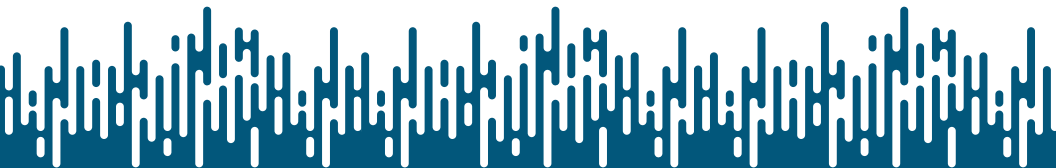
Download the free MDPC app to your iPhone or Android.

## ***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  
Second Sunday of Advent, Dec 5, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching  
[Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8](#)

**Welcome**

Brett Hurst

**Advent Reading and Call to Worship**

**Songs of Praise**      *Angels We Have Heard / Joy to the World*  
*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance**

Dave Steane

**Song of Response**      *God With Us*

**Message**      **Questions: Why This Way?**      Alf Halvorson  
[Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8 \(NRSV\)](#)

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

**Song of Response**      *Promises / Doxology*

**Opportunity to Give and Benediction**      Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Daniel Martinez, keys; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;  
Gisele Duque, Michael Middleton, Meliza Gómez, worship leaders



**Sunday Worship Playlist**

[Click here to listen.](#)

**Give Online**

[give.mdpc.org](http://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](http://partners.mdpc.org) to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.



# Christmas Questions

Advent 2021

9:45a Service  
Second Sunday of Advent, Dec 5, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching  
[Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8](#)

## Welcome, Advent Readings, and Call to Worship

**Songs of Praise** *Noel / Angels We Have Heard / Joy to the World  
Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

## Moment of Confession and Assurance

Dave Steane

**Song of Preparation** *God With Us*

**Message** **Questions: Why This Way?** Alf Halvorson  
[Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8 \(NRSV\)](#)

## Communion

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

**Song of Response** *Promises / Doxology*

**Opportunity to Give and Benediction** Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Daniel Martinez, keys; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;  
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# Christmas Questions

Advent 2021

11:15a Service  
Second Sunday of Advent, Dec 5, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching  
[Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8](#)

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>Overture to Messiah</i>	G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
<b>Welcome</b>		Christyn Knoop
<b>Advent Readings and Call to Worship</b>		
<b>*Hymn of Praise</b>	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	#9; Vs. 1, 3   VENI EMMAUEL
<b>*Prayer of Confession and Assurance</b>		Amy Delgado
<b>*Affirmation of Faith</b>	from Romans 8	
<b>*Congregational Response</b>	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	#23; Vs. 2   GLORIA
<b>Anthem of Preparation</b>	<i>Selections from Messiah</i> <i>Comfort Ye, Every Valley Shall Be Exalted, And the Glory of the Lord</i>	G.F. Handel
<b>Message</b>	<b>Questions: Why This Way?</b> <a href="#">Isaiah 40:1-11 &amp; Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)</a>	Alf Halvorson
<b>Communion</b>	<i>All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.</i>	
<b>Communion Anthem</b>	<i>Aria and Chorus O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion (from Messiah)</i>	G.F. Handel
<b>Opportunity to Give and Benediction</b>		Alf Halvorson
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Shepherd's Noel</i>	J. Wayne Kerr (b.1957)

Musicians in this service:

Miriam Belyatsky and Mila Neal, violin; Megan Berti and Namarea Randolph, soloists;  
Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

## MDPC Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

Each week, we pray for three of MDPC's local and global mission partners. Visit [partners.mdpc.org](http://partners.mdpc.org) to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.

**Give Online**  
[give.mdpc.org](http://give.mdpc.org)



Sunday, Dec 5, 2021

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

To see more events at MDPC, visit [events.mdpc.org](https://events.mdpc.org).

## WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of Nov 28, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 8,987,032
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 2,312,968



**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](https://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](https://coffee.mdpc.org). Share the link with friends!



**Sat, Dec 11 • 11:30am • Downtown (Option to 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](https://caroling.mdpc.org).



**Friday, Dec 24**

Our Savior is born! Celebrate with us at the Family Service at **4:00pm**, or one of three Candlelight Services in the Sanctuary: **5:30, 7:00, and 8:30pm**.



**Order a Custom Christmas Dinner!**

MDPC's Food Services provider is offering pre-ordered meals to make your Christmas simple and delicious! All orders are custom priced per family size and chosen menu items. Get your order started by visiting [feast.mdpc.org](https://feast.mdpc.org).



**Donate through Dec 5**

Choo-choo, the **Toy Train** is about to leave the station! Bring a new, unwrapped toy by this Sunday to help make Christmas merry for a local kid. Learn more at [cfk.mdpc.org](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://pip.mdpc.org).





### [Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8](#) • Why This Way?

This is the second in our Advent/Christmas Series on questions surrounding Christmas, and how we can prepare for the Savior's arrival. What is a little surprising in how Isaiah chapter 40 and Mark 1 challenge us to get ready? Why is this method best or needed?

1. The People of Israel had been taken in captivity to Babylon in 587 BC because of their sins. The prophet says their liberation is near, in sight, close at hand; that God would use Cyrus, the Persian King, to overthrow Babylon and send the people of God home. So, God comforts the people and gives them hope regarding deliverance. Read Is. 40:1-11. What is the Good News delivered in verses 1-2?
2. In verses 3-5, a *court herald* challenges what they need to do for God to arrive and save them. What is prescribed? Is this literal or symbolic? How might a person or group of people clear a path in their lives and hearts for God? What might that look like for you this Advent?
3. In verses 6-8, it appears the people, or at least one person (the prophet representing the people), asks questions or has excuses. What impediment is shared? What does the writer say is needed in verse 8? Note: The writer seems to suggest it is not up to us, but up to God to speak and show up. In other words, the imprisoned can't free themselves. Does that ring true for you?
4. In verses 9-11, a herald is told to get up to a high place and say specific words. What are those words? Are they Good News to those enslaved or bad? And how is the Lord God to come? How is verse 10 different than verse 11? Namely, is it all *might and power* or *tenderness and care*? Or both? Which do you think you need most this Christmas? What if you prayed verses 10 and 11 fervently this week and asked God to come to you and those you love in those two specific ways?
5. Just like God made a way for the people of God to get back home around 500 BC, Mark 1:1-8 says God is going to do the same thing through His Son, Jesus the Christ, and with the aid of John the Baptist. John is the herald; he helps the people prepare the way for the Lord, using the prophecy in Is. 40 as his template. Read Mark 1:1-8. How is the way to be cleared for the Savior (look esp. in verses 5-6)?
6. Why do you think confessing our sins or repenting is the method that effectively prepares the way for the Lord?
7. Tim Keller has said that true repentance begins when we end (a) whitewashing ("nothing really happened"), (b) blame shifting ("it wasn't really my fault"), (c) self-pity ("I'm sorry because of what it has cost me"), and (d) self-flagellation ("I will feel so terrible no one will be able to criticize me"). What needs to end in you and me so that true repentance really can occur? What needs to happen in you and me so the Savior truly can come to free us this Christmas?

