

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
Third Sunday of Advent, Dec 12, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Luke 2:8-14](#)

Welcome

Beth Case

Advent Reading and Call to Worship

Songs of Praise *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing / Come, Now Is the Time
O Little Town of Bethlehem / Away in a Manger*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Clay Brown

Song of Response *Joy to the World / God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Moment of Prayer

Beth Case

Song of Preparation *All Hail King Jesus / Come, Let Us Adore Him*

Message

Christmas Questions: Why the Angels?

Alf Halvorson

[Luke 2:8-14 \(NRSV\)](#)

Song of Response

The First Noel

Opportunity to Give and Benediction

Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Parrott, guitar; Tim Hughes, violin;
Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders



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
Third Sunday of Advent, Dec 12, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Luke 2:8-14](#)

Welcome

Meliza Gómez

New Members

Dan Aikins

Learn more about the New Members [here](#).

Advent Readings and Call to Worship

Songs of Praise *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing / Come, Now Is the Time
Homecoming*

Moment of Confession and Assurance

Sarah Stone

Songs of Preparation *All Hail King Jesus / Come Let Us Adore Him*

Message

Christmas Questions: Why the Angels?

Alf Halvorson

[Luke 2:8-14 \(NRSV\)](#)

Song of Response

The First Noel

Moment of Prayer

Laurien Hook

Opportunity to Give and Benediction

Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Parrott, guitar; Tim Hughes, violin;
Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders



Sunday Worship Playlist

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Christmas Questions

Advent 2021



11:15a Service
Third Sunday of Advent, Dec 12, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Luke 2:8-14](#)

Prelude	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	arr. Rutz/White
Welcome		Beth Case
Advent Readings and Call to Worship		
Choral Introit	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	Donald McCullough
*Hymn of Praise	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	#53; Vs. 1, 3 GREENSLEEVES
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Lyndsey Dottavio
*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed		
Anthem	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>	arr. Carolyn Jennings (1925-2015)
New Members		Dan Aikins
Learn more about the New Members here .		
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Selections from Messiah</i> <i>There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field, Glory to God</i>	G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
Message	Christmas Questions: Why the Angels? Luke 2:8-14 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i>	#31; Vs. 1, 2 MENDELSSOHN
Opportunity to Give and Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Thou Wondrous King</i>	Sigrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)
Musicians in this service: Justine Alexander, soloist; Kelley Edwards, flute; Rasa Kalesnykaite, violin; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ/piano		

MDPC Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

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Give Online
give.mdpc.org

MDPC NEW MEMBERS

*Introduced in worship on
Sun, Dec 12, 2021*

We are excited to welcome 17 new members to the MDPC family! Learn a little more about them below, and join us in welcoming them to MDPC.



Carolyn Eads is a native Texan who enjoys being with her children and grandchildren. She also likes water exercise and classic movies.



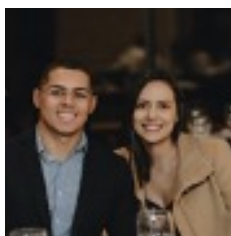
Karla Gillan is returning to MDPC after living in Austin with her husband, Chris. They now split time between Houston and Rosemary Beach, FL. Their son, Charlie, was baptized at MDPC as an infant by Dave Peterson and is now a senior at the University of Houston business school. Karla works in real estate and serves on the board of Mo-Ranch.



Kendyl Howard moved to Houston with her husband, Adam, in 2017 and they are expecting their first child this December. Kendyl is a financial analyst with UBS Financial Services. Her hobbies include soccer, camping, and board games.



Debbie Makkaoui is retired and enjoys spending free time and vacations with her two daughters, son-in-law, and four precious grandchildren.



Juan and Renata Medeiros are from Brazil. Renata is a translator and student, and Juan a nutritionist and realtor. They enjoy spending time with their family and friends.



Ross and Meredith Purdy have been married almost three years and have a 10-month-old son, Ford, and a 12-year-old daughter and stepdaughter to Ross, Sydney. Ross is Dean of Students at the Fay School and Meredith is a financial controller at Environmental Resources Management.



Patrick McGinnis is a former Marine and is retired from oilfield services company Schlumberger.



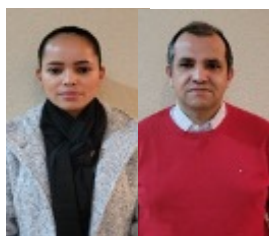
Mary Nelson was formerly a member of Pastor Alf's church in Bethlehem, PA. She has moved to Houston to be with her partner, Jerry Hill. They live at the Buckingham.



Jenny Reed moved to Houston 30-plus years ago from Michigan. She is VP of Human Resources and Administration for an aviation maintenance company in Sugar Land. She loves dogs and biking.



Bob Symon has lived in Houston for 51 years and formerly worked for Shell. He and his wife, who passed away three years ago, have three children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. His daughter is fellow MDPC member Jenny Nettles. Music has always been a part of Bob's life, particularly singing. He now resides at the Buckingham, where he started the Buckingham Singers.



Ricardo Costa da Silva and **Juliana Santanta da Silva** are from Brazil. They have two children: Maria (11) and Miguel (8). Ricardo is a quality manager and Juliana a home-maker. They enjoy singing and Bible studies, and their children are learning to play the violin and piano.

Jairo Souto Vilar

Maria Betânia Soares Vilar and her son, **Ernani Soares Vilar**

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Ready for the Next Step?

Discover MDPC with Alf • Get to know MDPC through a conversation with our Senior Pastor, Alf Halvorson as he shares about the history, mission, and vision of MDPC.

[Discover.mdpc.org](https://discover.mdpc.org) for upcoming dates



Explore Our New Member Class! • Led by Associate Pastors, Elders, and staff, you will explore whether becoming a member is the right next step in your faith in Jesus. New members are introduced to the congregation at a worship service and invited to meet with our Session to be received as MDPC members.

[Discover.mdpc.org](https://discover.mdpc.org) for upcoming classes

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

11612 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024 • mdpc.org • 713-782-1710

Sunday, Dec 12, 2021

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of Dec 5, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 9,289,502
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 2,010,498



Sunday, Dec 12 • 6:00pm • Chapel

Everybody is invited! The Brazilian Presbyterian congregational choir will sing and a delicious dinner will follow worship. Admission is free of charge. An evening for the whole family! Come celebrate Christmas with us!



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.



\$8/dedication • Order deadline: Wed, Dec 15

The beautiful poinsettias adorning the chancel may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. Names will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. To order and make your dedication, visit flowers.mdpc.org.



Tuesday Evenings starting Jan 11

Do you have questions about the Bible and theology? Have you ever considered attending seminary? Do you love learning? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, we have something unique for you! Learn more at institute.mdpc.org.



Sundays, Jan 9-30

Research shows certain marriage prep programs to be particularly effective at preventing divorce and increasing marital satisfaction. Learn more at mlp.mdpc.org. Engaged couples and those married up to 3 years are encouraged to join us!



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.



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.



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.



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.



Thursdays, Jan 13-Mar 3 • 4:30-6:00pm

Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? Do you wonder where God is in your pain and if you will ever feel joy again? If so, you are not alone. Learn more about our 8-week grief recovery program at grief.mdpc.org.



[Luke 2:8-14](#) • Why the Angels?

This is the third in our Advent series on questions surrounding Christmas. First, we looked at *Why This Time?* Next, we looked at *Why This Way?* In this message I ask: Have you ever wondered why an entire army or legion or choir of angels came to poor shepherds to announce the birth of the Messiah? Let's dig into *Why the Angels?* together.

1. Are you musically inclined? Can you sing or play an instrument? What kind(s) of music do you sing, play, or listen to normally? And what emotional effect does music have on you at certain times? Describe the emotions evoked.
2. What is the best musical performance that you have ever seen in person? Who, where, when, and why?
3. Read Luke 2:8-14. Of all the people the angels could have visited, why did God send them to the shepherds? How does that relate to Mary's song (1:46-55), which our choir sang about in the Magnificat concert last Sunday evening?
4. God appeared to the shepherds when they were just doing their jobs, being themselves, going about their normal workday. What does that imply about sacred spaces or what it might mean to be spiritual? How and where has God spoken to you in the ordinary flow of life? In other words, can God meet us not just in a church building when we are doing churchy things?
5. Focus on the Good News delivered by the Angels in verses 10-14. Parse the words; believe that they apply to you; have faith that you are one of the *favored ones*.
6. Hearing these words from the Angels moves the shepherds to action. Read Luke 2:15-20 to hear the rest of the story. What do they do? And from verse 20, what words and tune can't they get out of their heads and hearts? In other words, they were singing the song of the angels in their real lives. How might that become real for you this Christmas?

