



THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

Revelation 3:1-6

Sun, Mar 27, 2022

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship

Songs of Praise *Your Grace Is Enough*
10,000 Reasons

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Clay Brown

Song of Response *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

Moment of Prayer Dave Steane

Song of Preparation *Way Maker*

Message *What Jesus Says to the Church: [Sardis](#)* Alf Halvorson

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Announcements

Baptisms Alf Halvorson

Scott Brady Anderson, son of David and Kristin Anderson
Hadley Jane Kilgore, daughter of Jeffrey and Carli Kilgore
Edward Ford Linder, son of Adam and Lauren Linder

Songs of Praise *He Lives / Cornerstone*

*Moment of Confession & Assurance Sarah Stone

Song of Preparation *Way Maker*

Message *What Jesus Says to the Church: [Sardis](#)* Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Daniel Martinez, keys;
Chris Parrott, guitar; Perla Cantu-Arroyo and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Andante Cantabile from Symphony No. 4*
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Welcome & Call to Worship Dave Steane

Choral Introit *Jesus Shall Reign* Carl Nygard (b.1947)

*Hymn of Praise *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* #145; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | MARION

*Prayer of Confession & Affirmation of Faith Christyn Knoop

*Congregational Response *Open My Eyes* #324; Vs. 2 | OPEN MY EYES

Anthem *Thou Knowest, Lord (from Requiem)* Bob Chilcott (b.1955)

Moment of Prayer Dave Steane

Anthem of Preparation *Mercy* Craig Courtney (b.1948)

Message *What Jesus Says to the Church: [Sardis](#)* Alf Halvorson

*Hymn of Response *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* #387; Vs. 1, 2 | BRADBURY

Postlude *There's a Longing in Our Hearts* arr. K. White

Musicians at 11:15: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ



During the Lenten series, in lieu of sermon notes, you're invited to use the curriculum for MDPC's six-week Lenten Study. Each week's lesson will be shared here, or you can download a PDF of the full study guide at lentstudy.mdpc.org.

CHECK IN with one another as you gather with a little more intentionality. What has been a joy this past week? What has been a challenge? [15 minutes]

SHARE your "praises" (reasons for thanksgiving to God) and "petitions" (reasons for intercession to God). Please be as open as you are comfortable in being. Then **PRAY** for the praises and petitions by some combination of: 1) silent prayer, 2) several people voicing brief prayers, and 3) one person praying on behalf of the group. Include a prayer for God's Spirit to help with the study and discussion. As you pray, **PRAY ABOUT** if this group—some or all of its members—should meet beyond Lent if you are not already doing so in some fashion. If God is leading you to consider this possibility, contact Clay Brown for more about resources and options at cbrown@mdpc.org or 713-490-9557. [15 minutes]

READ ALOUD in your group the passage for this meeting, Revelation 3:1-6, with at least one volunteer, then **DISCUSS** with the group your responses to the questions below: [40 minutes]

1. The risen Jesus is characterized in what fashion as the message to the Christians in Sardis begins. What is emphasized here about Him?
2. Something is missing in this message to the Christian church in Sardis as it begins. What is it? Why is this noteworthy? What does it say to us about the situation at Sardis? What does it say to us about the risen Jesus?
3. What is the reputation of the church in Sardis? How does the reputation differ greatly from the reality? What does this unfortunate reality mean? What does it reveal about the spiritual condition of the church?
4. Vivid language of sleeping through danger is used in this passage, perhaps influenced by Sardis' history of being overcome by enemies as defenders slept (by Cyrus II in 6th century BCE and by Antiochus III in 3rd century BCE). How is this language of sleeping through danger so arresting even today? What does it mean to you to be asleep spiritually before God?
5. Summarize the rebuke of the risen Jesus to the church in Sardis. If you were describing this rebuke to someone unfamiliar with religious terminology, what would you say?
6. What hope is there for the Christians in Sardis? How may the current situation be reversed? How may forgiveness and new life be experienced?
7. Today's world can seem quite chaotic, purposeless, and harsh. Where do you find hope for living in the midst of it?

TOUCH BASE about your assignment for next time from Revelation 3:7-13, the message to the Church in Philadelphia (pages 11-12). [5 minutes]

PRAY as you end your time together.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Give Online

give.mdpc.org

This
Sunday!

The Link

**This Sunday! 10:45-11:15am
Gathering Room**

The Link is designed to help you find your place here, whether you're a visitor, new member, or MDPC family legacy! Details at thelink.mdpc.org.



Apr 11-14

Our annual out-loud cover-to-cover reading of the Bible returns. Be part of this Holy Week tradition! Read or volunteer as a host at tsw.mdpc.org.



Wed, Mar 30 • 7:00pm

Join other women for a Mediterranean cuisine cooking demo by a private chef! To register, visit the event link at women.mdpc.org.



Youth Summer Mission Trips

MS Trip: San Antonio, TX, May 29
HS Trip: Asheville, NC, June 19
Junior-Senior Trip: Puerto Rico, Jul 16
Visit youth.mdpc.org and click the Linktree links. Registration is open!



Updates from Our Mission Partners in Ukraine • To learn about MDPC's recent gifts to our mission partners in Ukraine, visit the link below. Their greatest stated need is PRAYER! Pick up a prayer guide today, or visit ukraine.mdpc.org.



Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines

Each week, we pray for three of MDPC's partners in ministry, both local and global. They truly covet your prayers! Find this week's prayer recipients at partners.mdpc.org, or pick up one of the prayer booklets available around campus.

Financial Update as of Mar 20, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$12,294,000
Income to Date	\$2,400,331
Needed to Meet Budget	\$9,893,669

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS continued



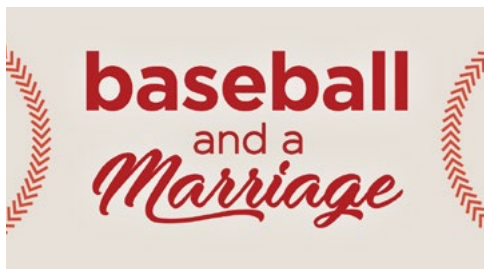
Order by Sun, Apr 10

Dedicate an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one. You can complete the form online (\$9/dedication) at lily.mdpc.org.



Apr 11-15 (24/7 beg. 6:00am Mon)

Before or after you participate in The Spoken Word, plan to visit our interactive prayer room in the Parlor. tsw.mdpc.org.



Fri, Apr 8 • 6:30pm at MDPC

Brett Hurst interviews Ted Meyer about his book. Dating, engaged, and married couples: Come enjoy a date night with ballpark snacks! baseballandamarriage.mdpc.org



Maundy Thursday • 7:00pm • Chapel

Good Friday • Noon • Sanctuary
Includes a concert presentation by Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra

Easter Sunday • 7:00, 8:30, 9:45, 11:15
Visit celebrate.mdpc.org for details.



Sing on Good Friday, Apr 15

Join the Sanctuary Choir and chamber orchestra in a special presentation at the noon worship service. Learn more at sing.mdpc.org.



Wed, Apr 20 • 6:30pm

The Well is back with three new speakers - women just like you from the MDPC family! Get the details and RSVP at thewell.mdpc.org.



The Faith Is Strong in You..

MDPC's vacation Bible school is open for registration! To be able to welcome as many kids as possible, we also need LOTS of teen and adult volunteers. Please consider serving with us (9:30am-12:30pm, July 11-15).