

THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3:7-13

Sun, Apr 3, 2022

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship

Songs of Praise *This Is Amazing Grace*
Holy, Holy, Holy

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Brett Hurst

Song of Response *Old Rugged Cross*

Moment of Prayer Beth Case

Songs of Preparation *Agnus Dei / A Thousand Hallelujahs*

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

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Announcements

Songs of Praise *This Is Amazing Grace*
Holy, Holy, Holy

*Moment of Confession & Assurance Sarah Stone

Songs of Preparation *Agnus Dei / A Thousand Hallelujahs*

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

Song of Response *Build My Life*

Moment of Prayer Christyn Knoop

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

Preludes *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* J. Kellner (1705-1772)
Ah, Holy Jesus J. Brahms (1833-1897)

Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case

Choral Introit *God So Loved the World* Bob Chilcott (b.1955)

*Hymn of Praise *Standing on the Promises* Not in Pres. Hymnal; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | PROMISES

*Prayer of Confession & Affirmation of Faith Dan Aikins

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

Anthem *Recordare (Remember): Drop, drop slow tears* Howard Goodall (b.1958)

Moment of Prayer Beth Case

Anthem of Preparation *The Holy City* Stephen Adams (1841-1913)/arr. Roy Ringwald

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

*Hymn of Response *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* #403; Vs. 1, 2 | CONVERSE

Postlude *Tranquil Meditation* Beethoven/arr. Rick Parks

Musicians at 11:15: Justine Alexander, soloist; Cassandra Black and Megan Berti, duet;
Christine Cummins, soloist; 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. Where have you found blessing of late? Where have you found aggravation? [15 minutes]

As you check in, **TALK 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 resources and options (cbrown@mdpc.org, 713-490-9557).

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. [15 minutes]

READ ALOUD in your group the passage for this meeting, Revelation 3:7-13, with at least one volunteer, then **DISCUSS** with the group your responses to the questions below: [40 minutes]

1. Note how the risen Jesus is characterized as this message to the church in Philadelphia starts. What stands out to you as being especially important?
2. The risen Jesus has much praise for the Christians in Philadelphia. What has He set before them in verse 8? What do you think this powerful phrase means for their lives? Open to what? To whom?
3. How else does the risen Jesus describe these Christians in verse 8? What makes them particularly praiseworthy in this verse?
4. This church has little earthly power and faces serious opposition in Philadelphia. What do you think is the nature of this opposition? How do followers of Jesus Christ face opposition today? In countries often associated with religious persecution? In the Western world?
5. What is missing in this message to this church that you find in most of the other messages? Why is this absence significant? What does it say about the church in Philadelphia despite its weak status?
6. What happens when Christians and churches focus more on human-centered understandings of power, glory, and influence, and less on gospel-centered witness in the name of Jesus through the Holy Spirit? Can you cite any historical examples in support? Give at least one. Any contemporary examples? Give at least one.
7. What is the result of following the counsel of the risen Jesus, according to verse 12? Read verse 12 in at least two different translations in addition to your usual one. Then put this verse into your own words below.

TOUCH BASE about your assignment for next time from Revelation 3:14-22, the message to the Church in Laodicea (pages 13-14). [5 minutes]

PRAY as you end your time together.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Give Online

give.mdpc.org

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



Maundy Thursday • 7:00pm • Chapel

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

Easter Sunday • 7:00, 8:30, 9:45, 11:15

Visit celebrate.mdpc.org for details.



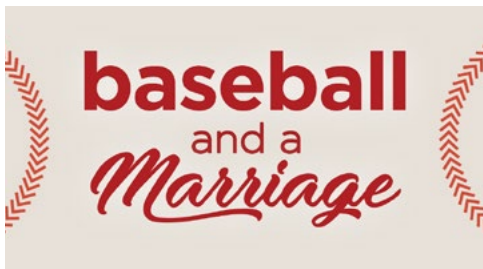
Apr 11-14

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.



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



The **MDPC offering on Apr 10** will go to **Living Water International**, which drills water wells in developing-world communities while sharing the Gospel. Learn more about their incredible global ministry at water.cc.



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 27, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$12,294,000
Income to Date	\$2,618,244
Needed to Meet Budget	\$9,675,756

Births and Deaths

Shirley Cleveland passed away on Mar 6.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS continued



DR. MICHAEL LICONA

Thu, Apr 28 • 7:00-8:15pm

Dr. Licona is a world-renowned scholar who has spent a great deal of time studying and defending proofs for the historical resurrection of Jesus. Join us when he speaks at MDPC! Info and RSVP at speakers.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.



With much prayer and careful research, MDPC has compiled a packet intended to facilitate conversations that honor your wishes for the end of your life here on this earth. **Protect your loved ones at a time of loss.** Learn more and download the free PDF at caring.mdpc.org.



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.



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!



Apr 18-May 15

Let's help the food pantry at our local partner, ECHOS, meet the increased summer demand! You can see their needs and three ways to give at fooddrive.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).