



The Books of Ezra & Nehemiah



Sunday, Aug 28, 2022

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome (In-person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Amanda Grace Caldwell

Songs of Praise *Victory in Jesus / Our God*

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Clay Brown

Song of Response *As the Deer*

Moment of Prayer Amanda Grace Caldwell

Songs of Preparation *Battle Belongs / I Surrender All*

Message **Worship God First ([Ezra 3:1-11 NRSV](#))** Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *As the Deer*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome (In-person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Amy Delgado

Song of Praise *Found in You*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Dan Aikins

Songs of Preparation *Our God / Battle Belongs / I Surrender All*

Message **Worship God First ([Ezra 3:1-11 NRSV](#))** Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Praise God (Doxology)*

Moment of Prayer Amy Delgado

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;
Daniel Martinez, keys; Meliza Gómez & Michael Middleton, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Adagio for Strings* Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Welcome & Call to Worship Amanda Grace Caldwell

Choral Introit *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* arr. John Ferguson (b.1941)

*Hymn of Praise *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* #482; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | LOBE DEN HERREN

*Prayer of Confession & Affirmation of Faith Brett Hurst

Anthem *Laudate Dominum (Praise the Lord)* W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)
from Solemn Vespers

Moment of Prayer Amanda Grace Caldwell

Anthem of Preparation *A Jubilant Song* Allen Pote (b.1945)

Message **Worship God First ([Ezra 3:1-11 NRSV](#))** Alf Halvorson

*Hymn of Response *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* #441; Vs. 1, 5 | ST. THOMAS

Postlude *Trumpet Tune* Rob Landes (b.1941)

Musicians at 11:15: Dr. Cassandra Black, solo; Bill Lundgren and Alberto Graulau, violin;
Charles Hausmann, conducting; Kathryn White, organ/piano

The Books of
Ezra & Nehemiah



Worship God First

[Ezra 3:1-11](#) NRSV

This is the second in an 11-week fall series on Ezra and Nehemiah. These books tell of the return of the people of God from Babylonian Captivity to rebuild the altar and temple, to reestablish the worship & Word life of the community, and then to remake the walls. We looked last week at God *stirring* the heart of King Cyrus of Persia and many of the hearts of the Israelites to return to Jerusalem. Those who didn't return were *stirred* to provide money and resources for those who did return. How might God be *stirring* you this fall? This week God's people in chapter three got down to work on the altar and the foundation of the temple.

1. Read Ezra 3:1-11. Now read three or four Scriptural versions of verse 1. What hits you that is missing in the NRSV version? Does it matter that "as one person" is in some versions and not in others? What is added with this phrase? Why is unity in the face of a huge challenge so critical? Share a time when you were unified or not regarding some endeavor.
2. Focus on verses 2-7. What kinds of offerings are re-established? Study the differences if you have a Bible Dictionary or commentary. What hits you of importance regarding these different ritual commitments? And in verse 7, what role do food, drink, oil, and money play? How is that still important today?
3. In verses 8-11, there is a dividing up of tasks based on giftedness and roles in the community. Who did what? Zerubbabel, the governor, was from the line of David; and Jeshua or Joshua was from the line of Aaron the Priest. They all follow what was prescribed in the law of Moses (vs. 2) and the Levites, the assistants to the priests, make sure that praise and worship occurs during the process (vs. 11). What might this mean practically and symbolically for you/us?
4. In my sermon, I introduced the concept from mathematics called *commutativity* and told a story about Shari's cooking of an egg casserole. I tried to make the point in my message that rebuilding the altar/temple was the first priority for the people (and God) when they returned. That the order mattered regarding what they did first. Did my argument convince you? Why or why not? What implications might that have for your calendar and schedule this fall and beyond?
5. Verse 11 says "the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid." At the end of the Sermon on the Mount from Matt. 7:24-29, Jesus talks about building your house on sand or rock. Is your spiritual foundation poured and solid? If not, how did I suggest that might occur for you or us? Don't delay. Strike while the iron is hot and while God is *stirring* this priority.

Financial Update as of Aug 21, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$ 12,294,000
Income to Date	\$ 6,717,098
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 5,576,902

Births and Deaths

Andy Kean passed away August 21, 2022.
Bob Harold passed away June 21, 2022.
Marty Nolterieke passed away Aug 6, 2022.



MDPC Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

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



Thu, Sep 15 • 7:00pm • Sanctuary

What does it look like to live with joy in a society that doesn't always agree with Christian thought or belief? Come to hear Alistair Begg and leave with a renewed sense of hope! Begg is senior pastor at Parkside Church in Ohio. In addition to Sunday services at Parkside, he can be heard daily on the *Truth For Life* radio program. Learn more at speakers.mdpc.org.



Nominations close today!

If you know an MDPC member who would make a great elder or deacon, nominate them by using our online form. Learn about the process and the roles at nominate.mdpc.org.



Next Sun, Sep 4 • 9:45-11:00am

We'll gather for a single service in the Sanctuary. All musical styles and musicians will be represented, and an All-Church Lunch follows! Learn more: laborday.mdpc.org



Groups begin Sep 8

In Mark, we see a beautiful depiction of Jesus' life, His teaching, His love of all people, and His victorious defeat of sin and death. Details and registration at wordandworship.mdpc.org.



Tuesdays, Sep 13-Nov 29 • 6:30am

An all-new 11-week series of speakers and study! We'll talk about how to share our faith in God along with heart matters relevant to all men. Open to men of all ages and stages. More at ml.mdpc.org.



Tue, Sep 13-Oct 18 • 10:00am-Noon

If you are caring for a loved one with dementia, this class is for you. Gain a better understanding of the disease while learning tips for care and self-care. Sign up at savvy.mdpc.org.



Soccer league **registration closes this week!** Also check out the variety of **REACH rec classes** for kids and adults this fall. Classes are filling fast, sign up today! Visit rec.mdpc.org.



Each Wed starting Sep 14 • 4:45pm

Be part of the return of Children's Choir to MDPC! Learn more and sign up your elementary student today at childrenschoir.mdpc.org.



Wed, Sep 21-Nov 9 • 4:30pm

Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? If so, you are not alone. Learn more about our 8-week grief recovery program at grief.mdpc.org.



Sundays through Aug 28

Your donation can help a child have a great school experience! MAM Back to School outfits local kids in new school clothes. Learn more or give at mambs.mdpc.org.



Sun, Sep 18 • 10:45am-Noon

A brunch event designed to prepare children to partake in the sacrament of communion. Led by Pastor Rachel. Learn more at kids.mdpc.org.