



The Books of
Ezra & Nehemiah



Sunday, Oct 9, 2022

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome Meliza Gómez / Rachel Poysky

Songs of Praise *He Has Made Me Glad / Joyful, Joyful
Be Thou My Vision*

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Clay Brown

Song of Response *In the Secret*

Moment of Prayer Rachel Poysky

Songs of Preparation *Shout to the Lord / Living Hope / Spirit of the Living God*

Message **Getting the Facts (Neh 2:11-20 NRSV)** Alf Halvorson

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome Meliza Gómez

Baptisms

Hudson Hulings, son of Hayden and Megan Hulings Beth Case

Mallory Hulings, daughter of Hayden and Megan Hulings Beth Case

Charlotte Ashford Kirst, daughter of Brandon and Casey Kirst Alf Halvorson

Emily Grace Thomas, daughter of Matthew and Lindsey Thomas Alf Halvorson

Meet & Greet (In-person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Laurien Hook

Song of Praise *Same Spirit*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Laurien Hook

Songs of Preparation *Shout to the Lord / Living Hope / Holy Spirit*

Message **Getting the Facts (Neh 2:11-20 NRSV)** Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Awake, My Soul*

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Solemn Entry* Richard Strauss (1864-1949)

Welcome & Call to Worship Rachel Poysky

*Hymn of Praise *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* Vs. 1, 2, 4, 5 | arr. Carl Nygard, Jr.

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Christyn Knoop

Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed

Anthem *Trinity Psalms* Z. Randall Stroope (b.1953)

Baptisms

Wren Lucille Davis, daughter of Preston and Lindsey Davis Alf Halvorson

James Preston Dash, son of Timothy and Rachel Dash Dan Aikins

Anthem of Preparation *The Invitation* Craig Courtney (b.1948)/arr. White

Message **Getting the Facts (Neh 2:11-20 NRSV)** Alf Halvorson

*Closing Hymn *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* #282; Vs. 1, 3 | WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

Postlude *Crown Him with Many Crowns* arr. Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Musicians at 11:15: John Parker, Rich Harris, trumpet; Deborah Harvey, French horn;
Rick White, trombone; Steven Needham, tuba; Julio Sanchez, timpani;
Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

The Books of
Ezra & Nehemiah



Getting the Facts

[Nehemiah 2:11-20](#) NRSV

This is the eighth in our fall sermon series on Ezra and Nehemiah. We are trying to learn from how God helped a people sent into exile for their sins, eventually to return home, rebuild their place of worship (and relationship with God), restore the Word as the center of their shared life, and, finally, rebuild the walls so they could live together in peace and safety, protected from enemies. As I said last weekend, I think Nehemiah is one of the greatest leaders in the entire Bible. In this second half of the second chapter of Nehemiah, he models a way to *tackle* a huge problem and get buy-in from others that is both inspiring and reproduceable in our own lives.

1. Who have been the best leaders in your life? What made them so helpful? What qualities did they display? Where have you been required to lead? How did that go?
2. Read Nehemiah 2:11-20, but focus on verses 11-16 first. When Nehemiah arrives after his two-month journey from Suza to Jerusalem, what does he do? Why do you think he doesn't share his plans until he has inspected the walls/gates at night himself? When is *openness* important? And when is *discretion* (or *secrecy*) sometimes necessary?
3. In my sermon, I shared the danger of ignoring facts. Where have we as a nation or you personally denied what was true around you? What was the result, or did you face the data in time to avoid a disaster?
4. In his short but powerful "vision-casting speech" in verses 17-18, how does Nehemiah use these four elements: identification, seriousness of their plight, an appeal to specific action, and a personal testimony?
5. In verses 19-20, how do the enemies of the people of God cast dispersion or try to disrupt Nehemiah's plans? Are they telling the truth or lying? Nehemiah could have ignored them or debated them or fought them right then and there. What approach does he take? Why do you think he took that avenue at that time? How might you know what *tack* to take when you face opposition? And where is God in all this?
6. What leadership lessons do you take away from this section of Scripture? How might you apply them to your own faith and life regarding some nagging problem you face?



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Fri & Sat, Oct 14 & 15

We'll be at Cidercade Fri night, serve together at the food pantry Sat morning, then meet up again that evening for Noche de Sabor! Details at ya.mdpc.org.



Sat, Oct 15 • 6:00-9:00pm

Come to MDPC Multicultural Ministries' annual celebration of Latin culture with food, music, and more for all ages! Learn more and share the link at flavor.mdpc.org.



Sundays at 8:30 (Rm 219) or 11:00 (127)

Parenting littles? Come hang out and study with other adults in that same fun, frenzied, hug-filled stage of life. Drop in any Sunday to say hi!



Thu, Oct 20 • 5:00-7:30pm

Show the families of Bo's Place some love by helping to serve up a warm meal with a friendly smile. Learn more and register for this volunteer opportunity at bites.mdpc.org.



Sun, Oct 23 • 10:45-11:10am

A casual visit with Pastor Alf, who will share about MDPC's history, mission, and vision and answer questions you may have. No sign-up needed! Learn more at discover.mdpc.org.



Sun, Nov 6-Dec 4 • 11:00am-12:15pm

Come explore if becoming a member is the right next step in your faith! The class is led by Associate Pastors, Elders, and staff. Learn more and register at membership.mdpc.org.



Wed, Oct 26 • 6:00pm

Ladies, join us at our semi-annual gathering for all ages and life stages. We'll hear personal stories from MDPC women just like you! Details and RSVP at thewell.mdpc.org.



Sat, Oct 29 • 10:00-11:30am

Preschool parents, round up your littles to come out and enjoy the fall weather! All ages will have a blast. No RSVP needed, so bring your friends!



Sat, Nov 12 • 9:00am-4:00pm

Join Beth Case, Leigh McLeroy, and Amanda Grace Morris in Brenham for a time of spiritual refreshment for women. Sign up at rooted.mdpc.org.


Interested in Baptism?




Infant, adult, or in-between, if you feel baptism is the next step in your faith journey, our pastors would love to speak with you. Scan the QR code to fill out a brief form and we'll be in touch. For more about the sacrament, visit baptism.mdpc.org.




Hurricane Ian Relief



If you feel moved to help with disaster relief in Florida, MDPC Outreach suggests you donate directly to **Samaritan's Purse**, generally among the first responders and able to help the most people in the shortest amount of time. Scan the QR code to give.



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 Oct 2, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$ 12,294,000
Income to Date	\$ 7,882,955
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,411,045