



The Books of
Ezra & Nehemiah



Sunday, Oct 16, 2022

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome (In-person / Online)

Michael Middleton / Beth Case

Songs of Praise *Everlasting God / Open the Eyes of My Heart*

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Clay Brown

Song of Response *Jesus Paid It All*

Moment of Prayer

Beth Case

Song of Preparation *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Message **External Opposition** ([Neh 4:1-23 NRSV](#))

Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Trust and Obey*

9:45 SERVICE

Meet & Greet (In-person / Online)

Michael Middleton / Hillary McMullen

Song of Praise *Same Spirit*

Moment of Confession & Assurance

Hillary McMullen

Third Grade Bible Presentation

Rachel Poysky and Melissa Goeden

Songs of Preparation *Jesus Paid It All / Way Maker*

Message **External Opposition** ([Neh 4:1-23 NRSV](#))

Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Battle Belongs*

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Adagio from Symphony No. 3*

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Welcome & Call to Worship

Beth Case

*Hymn of Praise *Trust and Obey*

Vs. 1, 2, 3 | TRUST AND OBEY

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Dan Aikins

Affirmation of Faith from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

Anthem *He, Watching Over Israel (from Elijah)* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Third Grade Bible Presentation

Rachel Poysky and Melissa Goeden

Anthem of Preparation *Do Not Be Afraid*

Philip Stopford (b.1977)

Message **External Opposition** ([Neh 4:1-23 NRSV](#))

Alf Halvorson

*Closing Hymn *Lead On, O King Eternal*

#447; Vs. 1, 3 | LANCASHIRE

Postlude *Alleluia*

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

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

THIRD GRADE BIBLES

Join us in praying over these children receiving their very own Bible today!

Ben Brollier	Conner DeLaat	Lila Kahn	Riley Schick
Genevieve Brown	Henry Etzler	Georgia Lancaster	Harrison Seckinger
Callie Buys	William Filip	Ava Lionberger	Bennett Shelfer
Caroline Buys	Charlie Galimore	Aidan McKnight	Blake Sloan
Coralyn Collins	Jack Henderson	James Morgan	Liam Tackett
Jamie Conn	Ramsey Howell	Aidan Mosk	Reed Tanous
Natalie Cooper	Elizabeth Huebel	Charlie Ong	Michael Vajdos
Vesper Crank	Sadie Ickes	Elie Rohr	Holden Wilshusen

The Books of
Ezra & Nehemiah



External Opposition

[Nehemiah 4:1-23](#) NRSV

This is the eighth in our fall sermon series that tells the story of Ezra and Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem from an extended exile. We first heard about possible opposition to Nehemiah's wall-rebuilding plan in Neh. 2:10, then a second time in Neh. 2:19-20. Now we have two full chapters (4 and 6) devoted to this matter of opposition *from the outside*. How are Christians supposed to deal with, handle, and, ideally, overcome obstacles or opposition?

1. When in your life have you felt like you were swimming upstream or going against the wind/grain or trying to be faithful to God in the face of opposition?
2. How can you tell the difference between legitimate correction from others and ungodly opposition? Does Scripture offer any guidance?
3. Read Nehemiah 4:1-23. What, according to verse 1, is Sanballat's motivation for his plots? Why, did you think, is he angry? What do he and Tobiah say and do in verses 2-3?
4. What is Nehemiah's response in verse 4 and 5? Are you okay with his prayer? I thought Jesus said to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"? This kind of prayer is called *imprecatory*, because it invokes judgment on someone. What does it mean that Nehemiah leaves what to do with his enemies in God's hands?
5. In verses 7-23, there is a back and forth between Nehemiah and his opposition with *move* and *counter move*. How did the hostile neighbors threaten? And how did Nehemiah and God's people respond? And how did Nehemiah model faithfulness?
6. Read Neh. 6:1-16. The plot thickens. What do the enemies of God propose and how does Nehemiah react? The first strategy seems to be distraction (and likely assassination) and the second strategy seems to be to discredit Nehemiah. How does Nehemiah learn in verse 2 that they intended to do him harm? And how does Nehemiah respond to each evil strategy? What do verses 15-16 report? Why is keeping close to God so critical?
7. What do you learn about handling opposition from Nehemiah? Can it be a vehicle God uses to help us grow and persevere and advance God's purposes? How did Jesus (and the early disciples) handle opposition? What can you learn from them?



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Give Online
give.mdpc.org



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.



MDPC Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Oct 23

Please stay for a brief meeting following each service to approve the slate of new MDPC Officers.



Shopping bags available Oct 23!

Our goal is to help 1K families have a great Thanksgiving! Please pick up a bag at the Front Office, fill it with the items listed at meal.mdpc.org, and return the filled bag by Nov 13.



Sun, Oct 23 • 10:45-11:10am

Enjoy a casual visit and a Q&A with Pastor Alf, who will share about the history, mission, and vision of MDPC. No sign-up needed! Learn more at discover.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 and come out and enjoy the fall weather. It'll be a fun time for all ages! No RSVP needed, so bring your friends! Details at kids.mdpc.org.



Covenant Sun, Nov 6 • All services

Your 2023 pledge packets are in the mail! Bring completed pledge cards to worship Nov 6 as we submit them in a corporate act of faith and obedience. Learn more: imin.mdpc.org



Register today: sports.mdpc.org

Hoop it up! It's time for youth basketball registration. Practices start the week of Nov 29; games start Sat, Jan 7. You must register at MDPC if you want to practice at MDPC!



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.



Sun, Nov 13 in 11:15 Worship Service

World premiere of the MDPC Choir-commissioned *Eternal Ruler of the Ceaseless Round* and 20th Anniversary of our Schantz Pipe Organ! Learn more at concerts.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.

Financial Update as of Oct 9, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$ 12,294,000
Income to Date	\$ 8,117,844
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,176,156

Births and Deaths

Joan House passed away Sep 22, 2022.