



The Ministry of
Reconciliation
2 Cor. 5:17-20, Acts 1:8

Sunday, Nov 20, 2022

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

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| Meet & Greet (In-person / Online) | | Meliza Gómez / Rachel Poysky |
| Songs of Praise | <i>Your Grace Is Enough / Jesus Paid it All</i> | |
| *Prayer of Confession & Assurance | | Dan Aikins |
| Song of Response | <i>Give Thanks</i> | |
| Moment of Prayer | | Rachel Poysky |
| Song of Preparation | <i>Great Are You, Lord</i> | |
| Message | The Ministry of Reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:14-20 & Acts 1:8 | Alf Halvorson |
| Song of Response | <i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i> | Kathryn White |

9:45 SERVICE

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| Meet & Greet (In-person / Online) | | Meliza Gómez / Rachel Poysky |
| Songs of Praise | <i>Doxology (Praise God) / Same Spirit</i> | |
| Moment of Confession & Assurance | | Dan Aikins |
| Songs of Preparation | <i>Here I Am to Worship / Promises</i> | |
| Message | The Ministry of Reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:14-20 & Acts 1:8 | Alf Halvorson |
| Song of Response | <i>Kindness</i> | |
| Moment of Prayer | | Rachel Poysky |

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

11:15 SERVICE

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| Prelude | <i>Let Us Give Thanks</i> | arr. Sprunger/White |
| Welcome & Call to Worship | | Rachel Poysky |
| Choral Introit | <i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i> | James Mulholland (b.1935) |
| *Hymn of Praise | <i>Now Thank We All Our God</i> #555; Vs. 1, 3 NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT | |
| *Prayer of Confession & Assurance | | Christyn Knoop |
| *Affirmation of Faith | | |
| *Congregational Response | <i>The Gloria Patri</i> | Hymn #579 |
| Anthem | <i>Hymn for Children</i> | Marianne Forman (b.1981) |
| Moment of Prayer | | Rachel Poysky |
| Anthem of Preparation | <i>The Light of the World</i> from "Every Purpose Under the Heaven" | Howard Goodall (b.1958) |
| Message | The Ministry of Reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:14-20 & Acts 1:8 | Alf Halvorson |
| *Hymn of Response | <i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i> #298; Vs. 1, 2 IN BABILONE | |
| Postlude | <i>Now Thank We All Our God</i> | arr. DeBruyn (b.1947) |

Musicians at 11:15: Children's Choir, Steffanie Dean, director; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Rasa Kalesnykaite, violin; Nathan, Lerner, soloist; Kathryn White, organ/piano

The Ministry of Reconciliation

[2 Cor. 5:14-20 & Acts 1:8](#) NRSV

After our one-off message last week on “The Tyranny of the Urgent,” and before we move fully into Advent in December, I wanted us to wrestle for two weeks with the subject of Evangelism. I know, for many of us, *evangelism* is a *dirty* and *awful* word. And that is why we need to talk it through more intelligently. It was one of the founding principles of MDPC, probably because it was given to us as The Great Commission by Jesus in Matt. 28:19-20. Jesus promised in these last words of the Gospel of Matthew to be with us as we sought to share the Good News with those who are mired in too much bad news. But how do we even approach this “full of landmines” topic?

1. Who shared with you the Good News about God’s love and grace? Did they share well or poorly? What did they do and say that either worked or wounded you in the process?
2. Read 2 Cor. 5:14-20, focusing especially on verses 17-20. From these verses, how would you describe the *ministry of reconciliation* Paul talks about here? Verse 20 calls us “ambassadors for Christ, since God is making His appeal through us.” Who is an ambassador, and what does an ambassador do? And how can God make His appeal through us? What might that mean?
3. Read Acts 1:6-8, focusing especially on verse 8. When have you witnessed something and told others the truth about what you saw and experienced? How would you define the word *witness*? How might that image apply to your life (and my life) as a follower of Jesus and a sharer of Christ’s mercy and love?
4. How do these two terms, by Paul and Jesus, of *ambassador* of reconciliation and *witness* to all you have seen and heard reframe the idea of evangelism for you? Are there new positives in the formerly negative expectation? What are they?
5. Here are some helpful questions to explore your own faith story and that of those you might come in contact with on this journey as an ambassador and witness:
 - My first recollection of being in church is when...
 - I was baptized in the _____ church by _____ when I was _____ years old.
 - Who were the evangelists/faith-sharers in your life? (Positive or negative)
 - The time I felt the greatest doubt or distance from God was...
 - The closest I have ever felt to God in my life was...
 - When, if ever, has God been more than a name to you?
 - If I could name a turning point in my relationship with God, it would be...
 - If I had to tell someone why I am (or am not) a Christian, I would say...
 - In the last two months, how has God impacted your life? Any God-moments?
6. Our own Pastor Clay Brown has created a great six-week study on being ambassadors for Christ called [The Witnessing Disciple](#), that most of the staff and Elders/Deacons have gone through to work out the kinks. Maybe your small group will choose that as your next study. I highly recommend it. And we will be offering groups using this material with a pastor or church officer in 2023.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Fri, Nov 25

Let's transform Black Friday, a national shopping phenomenon, into Bless Friday, a spirit-filled service day! Visit blessfriday.mdpc.org for ideas and ways to get involved.



Bring Boxes by Dec 12

Our goal this year is 220 Christmas boxes - enough for 10 ships! You can have Amazon ship items to be packed at MDPC or use the list to pack your own: seafarers.mdpc.org



Sun, Dec 4 • 3:30-5:30pm

Games, food, prizes, and more festive fun for the whole family. Admission is free and all are invited! Share the link at christmasfest.mdpc.org.



Sun, Dec 4 • 6:00-7:30pm

Celebrate the season with festive music! The Sanctuary Choir and orchestra present Karl Jenkins' *Gloria* and congregational carols. Free childcare available: concerts.mdpc.org



Mon, Dec 5 • 9:00am-2:30pm

Come experience peace as we enter this season of joyful, expectant waiting. To learn more and register, visit still.mdpc.org.



Tue, Dec 6 | 9:30-11:00am

Ladies, you're invited for treats and chats! Bring your neighbor, mother, daughter, sister, friends... More info at coffee.mdpc.org.



Wed, Dec 7 • 5:30-7:00pm

Through prayer, song, and sharing, we offer you hope and peace in this season. All are welcome! The "merry" and the "not-so-merry." Learn more at blue.mdpc.org.



Fri, Dec 9 | 6:00-9:00pm

Young Adults (22-35) are invited for food, drinks, and games! Learn more about this and other fun events at ya.mdpc.org.



Christmas Eve Services

Sat, Dec 24 | Sanctuary
4:00pm Family-friendly
5:30, 7:00, 8:30pm Candlelight

Christmas Sunday Service

Sun, Dec 25 at 11:15am | Sanctuary



Bless a Child this Christmas

Please consider sponsoring a child's wish list, or simply bringing a new, unwrapped toy to the Toy Train at MDPC. Learn more at cfk.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.

Financial Update as of Nov 13, 2022

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| 2022 Annual Budget | \$ 12,294,000 |
| Income to Date | \$ 9,190,718 |
| Needed to Meet Budget | \$ 3,103,282 |

Births and Deaths

Diane Segerstrom passed away November 1, 2022.
April Gauss passed away November 13, 2022.