



Believe!

Sunday, Dec 4, 2022

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

- Meet & Greet (In-person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Brett Hurst
- Songs of Praise *Hark the Herald Angels Sing / Come Now Is the Time*
- *Prayer of Confession & Assurance Clay Brown
- Song of Response *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
- Songs of Preparation *King of Kings / O Come, Let Us Adore*
- Message **Believe in the God Who Loves You** Alf Halvorson
[John 3:16-17 NRSV](#)
- Communion *All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.*
- Communion Music *Emmanuel, God with Us Forever*

9:45 SERVICE

- Meet & Greet (In-person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Sarah Stone
- Song of Praise *Noel*
- Moment of Confession & Assurance Sarah Stone
- Songs of Preparation *Hark the Herald Angels Sing / Come Now Is the Time*
What a Beautiful Name
- Message **Believe in the God Who Loves You** Alf Halvorson
[John 3:16-17 NRSV](#)
- Communion *All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.*
- Communion Music *Emmanuel, God with Us Forever*

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Daniel Martinez, piano; Gisele Duque and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

- Prelude *Overture to Messiah* G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
- Welcome & Call to Worship Amanda Grace Morris
- *Hymn of Praise *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #9; Vs. 1, 3 | VENI EMMANUEL
- *Prayer of Confession & Assurance Marcus Vajdos
- *Affirmation of Faith from Romans 8
- *Congregational Response *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23; Vs. 2 | GLORIA
- Anthem of Preparation *Selections from Messiah* G.F. Handel
Comfort Ye, Every Valley Shall Be Exalted, And the Glory of the Lord
- Message **Believe in the God Who Loves You** Alf Halvorson
[John 3:16-17 NRSV](#)
- Communion *All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.*
- Communion Music *Love Never Ends* James Biery (b.1956)
- Postlude *Shepherd's Noel* J. Wayne Kerr (b.1957)

Musicians at 11:15: Miriam Belyatsky and Mila Neal, violin; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Sam Mathis, soloist; Kathryn White, organ/piano

Believe!

Believe in the God Who Loves You

[John 3:16-17](#) NRSV

This is the second of our *Believe!* series for Advent 2022. Advent means *arrival*. We remember Christ's first arrival 2,000 years ago to die for the sins of the world, we await His arrival at the end of days to make all things right, and we "prepare Him room" this year so our Christmas might be joyful, worshipful, and purposeful. The text for today might be the most known and memorized text in the entire Bible. The problem with a text that is overly familiar is we assume we cannot learn anything new from it. However, my experience of Scripture is that it is shallow enough for a child not to drown, but also deep enough for the best swimmers always to find new, refreshing, and deeper water.

1. Read John 3:16-17. When was the first time you remember hearing these verses or seeing them? What was the context? And what was your reaction?
2. From John 3:16, where does the *initiative* lie regarding salvation? Us or God? And what is the *motivation* for God's action? And finally, *how wide* is the love God offers? Is it only narrowly applied or extended or much wider than expected and deserved?
3. In John 3:17, John tried to correct a possible misunderstanding for Christ's coming. What is the misunderstanding, according to the verse? Why do you think John needed to bring this point up? Why, according to the last half of the verse, did God send the Son?
4. The second half of John 3:16 invites us to believe. What are we invited to *believe in* or *believe into* here? And what might it look like for you to "believe" in the Son this Christmas?



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Give Online
give.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



Sat, Dec 3 • 9:00am-1:00pm

Come brighten the Amazing Place campus with Christmas decorations and cheer! To learn more and sign up, visit bites.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.



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



Christmas Shopping Made Simple

Make an impact with your gifting. With Mission Market, gifts to friends and family become blessings to our mission partners across Houston and the globe: missionmarket.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



Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

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 Nov 27, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$ 12,294,000
Income to Date	\$ 9,839,944
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 2,454,056

Births and Deaths

April Gauss passed away Nov 13.
Dorothy Koomey passed away Nov 27.
Jim Gibson passed away Nov 29.
Betty Shropshire passed away Nov 29.