



Believe!

Sunday, Jan 1, 2023

Rev. Brett Hurst preaching

Happy New Year!

Meet & Greet (In-person / Online)

Michael Middleton / Rachel Poysky

*Songs of Praise

Great Things / All Creatures

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Rachel Poysky

Song of Response

Jesus Paid It All

Moment of Prayer

Rachel Poysky

Song of Preparation

Cornerstone

Message

Correct Identification

Brett Hurst

[Luke 2:36-40 ESV](#)

Song of Response

Give Me Faith

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; David Reyna, bass; Michael Middleton and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

Upcoming Events



Jan 1-31, 2023

Why not set a New Year's Resolution now and kick January off with prayer? Join MDPC Women in a 31-day prayer journey using one of two easy formats. To learn more, visit 31days.mdpc.org.



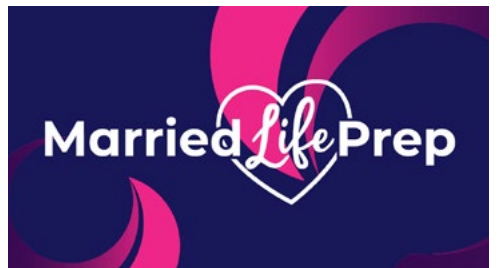
Sun, Jan 22 • 10:45-11:10am

Join us in the Gathering Room or via Zoom for a chance to get to know MDPC through a conversation with one of our pastors. For details and the Zoom link, visit discover.mdpc.org.



Sat, Jan 28 • 9:00-11:30am

Come for speakers and fast-moving breakout sessions. You'll leave with tools to use right away, plus long-term techniques for better relationships with your kids. Learn more and register for free at dadpal.mdpc.org.



Sun, Jan 8-29 • 10:00-Noon

MLP is open to dating and engaged couples, newlyweds, and young marrieds. It combines Biblical teaching with the best current marriage research in a FUN environment! Learn more and register for free at mlp.mdpc.org.

Correct Identification

[Luke 2:36-40](#) ESV

Last week we read about Simeon's encounter with the Christ child during the baby's dedication in the temple. This act of obedience by Jesus' parents was directed by the requirements of Jewish law. It was necessary to make the purification offering (see Leviticus 12:6-8) and to present Jesus as their firstborn before God. Our text in Luke continues this week to include additional mention of Anna, the prophetess, witness of the child at that same event. Anna also testifies and confirms Jesus' identity as Messiah to the world. Eventually, following these happenings, Jesus' family returns to Galilee.

1. Both Simeon and Anna are remarkable examples of devotion to God. In the coming year, do you have any specific plans for growing in your own personal devotion to God? Perhaps a new Bible reading plan or intentional prayer strategy? How might you go deeper in your spiritual growth with the Lord?
2. Anna was a prophetess, a female prophet, one of seven Old Testament women identified by Jewish tradition as prophets. Anna had been a widow for a very long time, at least 60 years. In those days, most women who became widows in their early 20s (as Anna did) would then focus on finding another man to marry. Anna instead served God solely and faithfully as a widow for the remainder of her life. What do you think gave her great hope throughout those years?
3. Advanced age in those days was recognized as an indication of wisdom and honor. Do you think in our current day we honor those who have lived long lives? Why or why not?
4. Although many did so, not all OT prophets predicted the future. A godly prophet's primary role was always to walk closely with God, to follow His leading, and to proclaim His truth. Read Luke 2:36-37. What indications do we have that imply that Anna walked intimately with the Lord?
5. Read Luke 2:38. At what point did Anna come up to speak with Joseph and Mary? What did Anna then do upon her arrival? When was the last time in your life you were prompted toward spontaneous praise? Can you remember?
6. When word spread about the things that both Simeon and Anna had said about this child, who else should have personally welcomed this child to the temple? In other words, who might be missing from this scene that should have been present?
7. Read Luke 2:39-40. Read also Matthew 2. In what ways was the Christ child further honored and blessed? In what ways was Jesus protected by God? Where did Jesus' wisdom come from? How important was the favor of God to this young boy?
8. Read Psalm 5:12 and Psalm 90:17. How important is God's favor to each of us? Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Hebrews 4:16. Is God's favor something we can earn or not? Read Ephesians 1:5 and Romans 8:14-15. How does God's plan of grace shape our true identity?
9. Finally, read 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14; Acts 24:3. What shall our response be to the grace of God in our lives?