

Sunday, December 31, 2017



CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

John 1:1-2, 14 (ESV) • Clay Brown Preaching

8:30 AM BLENDED • 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

CCLI # 182374

WELCOME		Dan Aikins (8:30) Worship Team (9:45)
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Dan Aikins (8:30) Tara Reynolds (9:45)
SONG OF RESPONSE		
CHILD READER (9:45)		Clarissa Escamilla
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	<i>Christmas Playlist: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"</i>	Clay Brown
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Asaph Muradas, worship leaders • Craig Gysler, keys • George Heathco, guitar • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>Gesù Bambino</i>	Pietro Yon (1886-1943)
WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP		Tara Reynolds
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	#41; Vs. 1, 2, 3 ADESTE FIDELES
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Apostles' Creed		
CAROL SING		Charles Hausmann
OFFERTORY	<i>There's a Song in the Air</i>	Beck/arr. Courtney
READER		Anna Filip
MESSAGE	<i>Christmas Playlist: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"</i>	Clay Brown
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	#41; Vs. 2 ADESTE FIDELES
POSTLUDE	<i>What Child Is This</i>	arr. Robert Graham

Musicians in these services: Cassandra Black, soloist • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organist



Alpha is coming.
January 23, 2018
alpha.mdpc.org

Important Notes About Year-end Giving

For gifts of check or cash to be included in your 2017 giving statement, it must be received or postmarked by TODAY. Drop your gift in the offering plate or bring it by the Front Office until 12:30 PM. After 12:30, use the Prayer Chapel dropbox; cutoff time for the dropbox is tonight at 10:00 PM.

The easiest way to ensure your gift is received in time is to give online at give.mdpc.org.

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

In Houston, one in four preschool children goes to bed hungry - you can make sure there is one less empty tummy! Bring four loaves of bread per sandwich-maker, and come make sandwiches for Kids' Meals. That's all it takes to make a difference.

Wednesday, Jan. 10 | 4:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

Contact Julie with questions: hempeljulie@gmail.com

Married Life Prep

Taught at MDPC by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement, you will learn how to build your marriage upon a firm foundation.

Sundays, Jan. 7-28 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Details and registration: mlp.mdpc.org

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Do you care for an older family member or friend? Has it left you feeling drained and frustrated? Come learn tools to take better care of yourself, from reducing stress to communicating effectively and more.

Wednesdays, Jan. 10-Feb. 14 | 3:30-5:00 PM

\$30 registration fee for program resources.

Class size is limited. No professional caregivers, please.

Registration: tools.mdpc.org

Confirmation 2018

Confirmation is for students currently in the 8th grade or above. It'll be a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.

Kick-off: Sunday Evening, Jan. 7

Contact Youth Director Laura Miller with questions:

lmiller@mdpc.org, 713-490-2014

Details and registration: confirmation.mdpc.org

All-Church Lunch Next Sunday

The first ACL of 2018 is brunch! Plan to stay for selections like veggie frittata, bacon, fruit, and pastries.

Sunday, Jan. 7 | 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
food.mdpc.org

Young Adults: Bible365

Your challenge: Read the Bible in a year using the Bible app on your phone. Sign up with us to get reminders, and to be notified if/as accountability groups form.

Learn more and sign up: bible365.mdpc.org

B90: Read the Bible

Read 12 pages a day starting January 1, and meet once a week for support and encouragement. This could be the best new year's resolution you'll ever make.

First Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 7 | 11:15 AM | MC 218

Details: b90.mdpc.org

Sacred Rhythms

We believe that there is an eagerness, a longing, a thirst within each of us to deepen our spiritual journey with God. Join us as we pay attention to the ways God is moving in our lives. Facilitated by Gina Etherton, Jeanmarie Tade, and Martha Moore.

Jan. 7-Feb. 14 | Sundays at 9:45 or Weds at 11:45

More info: sacred.mdpc.org

Romp Through the New Testament

We believe that God invites us to experience the good life through His Word. At the Tuesday Bible Study, gather with others who seek God through study, prayer, and the sharing of life with one another. There's always room for one more!

Tuesdays, Jan. 9-April 3 | 9:00-10:00 AM | MC 122

Facilitators: Rachel Poysky and Martha Moore

Business Advisers Needed

MDPC ministry partner Newspring focuses on economic development in Spring Branch. Its business plan competition trains contestants in business planning. We need advisers for the 11-week competition.

If you are interested in applying your business skills as part of your Christian witness, contact Robert Westheimer at rwestheimer1@comcast.net.

Please Pray With Us: MDPC Ministry Partners

This week, please pray for these partners MDPC assists with your support:

Young Life of Greater Houston is a Christian support organization operating on high school and middle school campuses. The urban program has expanded to include chapters that minister specifically to unwed mothers (Young Lives), junior high students (Wyldlife), and urban Latinos.

younglife.org

Transitions Foundation mobilizes disabled Guatemalans through rehabilitation, education, and spiritual development. It was founded to give dignity to the disabled as they work together to make custom wheelchairs and prosthetics. The diligence of the workers and excellent design of their products give new life to many with disabilities.

transitionsfoundation.org

Youth With A Mission serves in Budapest, Hungary through evangelism and leadership training. MDPC field partners Steve and Barbara Johnson created a coffeehouse that serves as an evangelism outreach tool — a place where music and good coffee help conversations go “beneath the surface.” MDPC members are always welcome to visit when traveling through Budapest.

ywambudapest.hu

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

The most current Financial Update was not available at the time of printing. It will be shared this morning from the chancel.



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

John 1:1-2, 14 (ESV) • Clay Brown Preaching

This is the concluding sermon in our Advent and Christmas series using Advent and Christmas carols that help us prepare for Christ's birth. *O Come, All Ye Faithful* is a festive, joyful carol on nearly everyone's favorite Christmas carol list. Why? Because it trumpets and proclaims the wonderful news that what happened in the manger was more than the birth of a boy to parents away from home and in a bind. This birth is the birth of the Son of God. As the carol expresses it, "Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels." Or, as John 1:14 expresses it, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth." Glorious, life-changing news indeed!

1. Read John 1:1-2. Here we are introduced to a term Christians have understood as referring to Jesus: "The Word." Why does this term fit Jesus so well? What does the term "The Word" emphasize about Jesus?
2. Continuing in John 1:1-2, we notice that there is a strong identification of "The Word" with God, that The Word is both with God and is God from before time. How have Christians, in their doctrine, attempted to make sense of this dual identification?
3. The bulk of the sermon, however, comes from John 1:14, as noted above. Why is it so important for Christianity that we believe what the Scripture states, that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"? What about this fact separates Christianity from all other religions and philosophies? What about this fact provides us comfort and encouragement as we live our very human lives?
4. Please read and respond to this lengthy but helpful quote from C. S. Lewis from his essay *The Grand Miracle*:

"One is very often asked at present whether we could not have a Christianity stripped, or, as people who ask it say, 'freed' from its miraculous elements, a Christianity with the miraculous elements suppressed... But you cannot possibly do that with Christianity, because the Christian story is precisely the story of one grand miracle, the Christian assertion being that what is beyond all space and time, what is uncreated, eternal, came into nature, into human nature, descended in His own universe, and rose again, bringing up nature with Him. It is precisely one grand miracle. If you take that away there is nothing specifically Christian left."

Is Lewis correct? Can you have a real Christianity without the Incarnation, for example? If you take away the Incarnation, what effect does this subtraction have on the rest of Jesus' mission and message? What impact does the reality of the Incarnation—Jesus born as a 100-percent human being and 100-percent God—have on the authenticity and validity of the gospel for you?
5. Jesus is described as being "full of grace..." What is grace? How does grace connect to the core of the gospel? How is grace evident in your life?
6. Jesus is also described as "full of truth" as well. We live in a day in which the very existence of truth is debated and often doubted. Is there Truth (with a capital T) that is true for everyone? How is Jesus Christ Truth? If He is, what are some of the implications of this new reality for your life?

