



Sunday, February 4, 2018

ROMANS

The Radical Breakthrough
Romans 3:21-26; 5:1-2, 6-10

8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Brett Hurst

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

SONG OF PREPARATION

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE Dave Steane

MESSAGE ROMANS: The Radical Breakthrough Alf Halvorson

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WELCOME Worship Team

SCOUT SUNDAY | EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION Dave Steane

Scoutmaster: Dr. Don Leever (25 years)

Eagle Scout Honor Roll: Noah Baughman, Camden Beck, John Benson, Michael Goolsby, Payton Harris, Nicolas Latiolais, Owen Lynch, Sam Lynch, Thomas Pfeifer, Baileigh Turet, Felipe Zapater

God & Church Awardees: Allen Brothers, Raleigh Burton, Eric Jackson, Evan Proctor, Parker Samuelson, Josh Thornton

God & Life Awardees: Cade Parnell, James Shea

PRAY Program Leader: John Beall

CALL TO WORSHIP

*WORSHIP MUSIC

MESSAGE ROMANS: The Radical Breakthrough Alf Halvorson

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE Sarah Stone

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Daniel Amaya, bass • Daniel Martínez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums • Elliot Tate, guitar

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE *Fantasy from Sonata No. 2* Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT *God Gave to Us This Glorious Day* J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Come, Thou Almighty King* #139; Vs. 1, 3, 4 | ITALIAN HYMN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE Rachel Poysky

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *The Gloria Patri* Hymn #579

ANTHEM *Rejoice in the Lord* John Redford (1486-1547)

OFFERTORY *And Can It Be* Dan Forrest (b.1978)

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* #384; Vs. 1, 3 | ST. MARGARET

POSTLUDE *Choral Song* Samuel Wesley (1810-1876)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organist

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374



Gary Haugen
 Founder and CEO of
 International Justice Mission
February 22 • 7:00 PM • MDPC
 Learn more and listen to his TED Talk: justice.mdpc.org

MDPC

CHURCH IN THE CITY

On **Sunday, February 25**,
 the church leaves the building.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY:

citc.mdpc.org

Fight Hunger with MDPC

You may have noticed we did not collect a second offering for Souper Bowl of Caring. We still enjoy a thriving partnership with SBOC and support their work in our community. This year, our Hunger Initiative ensures we focus on Houston's hungry in a strategic and on-going way rather than for this single weekend. So get involved! Join us for "Church in the City" on Feb. 25, a church-wide day of service at the Houston Food Bank. **Church in the City: Sunday, February 25**
Details and registration: citc.mdpc.org

All-Church Lunch

It was moved back one Sunday this month, but the Mardi Gras-themed menu will be worth the wait!
Next Sunday, Feb. 11 | 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
food.mdpc.org

"March Dadness" Men's Life Next Steps

Calling all dads! Step up your game as a dad with other MDPC DADS participating in the 5-week "Dads Becoming Heroes" study. There will be coffee.
Tuesdays, Feb. 6-Mar. 6 | 6:30-7:45 AM
Register: dadness.mdpc.org

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

Help feed preschoolers from food-insecure families. Give one hour of your time, bring four loaves of bread per sandwich-maker, and make sandwiches for Kids' Meals. That's all it takes to make a difference!
Wednesday, Feb. 7 | 4:30-6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
Contact Julie with questions: hempeljulie@gmail.com

Tweet & Eat: Follow Pastor Alf on Twitter!

Support Pastor Alf's first foray into social media by following @alfhalvorson. Not a tweeter yourself? Join us this Wednesday for a basic intro to Twitter.
Wednesday, Feb. 7 | 6:30 PM | Summit Room
tweet.mdpc.org

Bible Study Discussion Visitor Days

Looking for a small group? BSD has it all! Bible study, small group discussion, and lecture. Join us on a Visitor Day to learn more. Visitor dates are to the right:
Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 PM | Co-ed • Feb. 7
Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM | Women • Feb. 7
Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 AM | Women • Feb. 8
Sundays, 9:45 AM or 11:15 AM | Co-ed • Feb. 11
Questions to Christy Dull: christydull@hotmail.com

Five Love Languages

Looking for a marriage tune-up? Want to figure out now what will bring a lifetime of love? Ready to be in a small group together? Young marrieds (20s/30s), join us for a new class on the popular Gary Chapman book. **Sundays, Feb. 11-March 25 | 11:00 AM | MC 116**
Contact Amanda Grace: acaldwell@mdpc.org

Ash Wednesday: Two Service Times

Pastor Alf begins his new sermon series, *7 Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues*.
Wednesday, Feb. 14 | Noon or 6:30 PM
easter.mdpc.org

A Very Special Dinner & a Marriage

Parents of Special Needs Kids & Foster/Adoptive Parents
 Life seems to revolve around your children...let this night revolve around your marriage! Sit alone with your spouse, enjoy a low-key dinner, and learn to stay connected with each other in the midst of raising your very special family. Cost covers dinner & childcare.
Saturday, Feb. 17 | 5:30-7:30 PM | \$15/couple
Register by Feb. 4: special.mdpc.org
Service opps available! Keri Mosk: kmosk@mdpc.org

Lenten Small Groups

As Pastor Alf preaches on the themes of deadly sins and saving virtues this Lent, groups will gather to further discuss how we will strive against the sins that pervade our hearts, and seek to develop virtues that counter them. Many date/time options available.
Meet Weekly, February 18-March 25
Details and registration: lenten.mdpc.org

Blood Drive

Pre-registering at giveblood.org helps the Blood Center provide enough techs so you won't have a long wait. Walk-ins on the day of the drive are welcome!
Sunday, Feb. 18 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Walking the Mourner's Path

Transform grief into joyful living... This Christ-centered grief program is designed to help those dealing with the loss of a loved one. Limited to 10 participants, it creates a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group.
Thursdays, February 22-April 19 | 3:30-5:00 PM
Register at grief.mdpc.org or with Beverly Fluke: bfluke@mdpc.org, 713-490-9542

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

MDPC's 2018 Operating Budget is pending approval. Today's Financial Update will be shared on the screens.

The White Rose is in memory of

- Cliff Rackley, who passed away January 28, 2018.
- Jack Allyn, who passed away January 29, 2018.
- Mosie Myers, who passed away January 30, 2018.



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

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

ROMANS

The Radical Breakthrough

Romans 3:21-26; 5:1-2, 6-10

Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the third and final in a short series on the Book of Romans, before we focus on our upcoming Lenten Study. Week one we wrestled with the Thesis Statement for the whole book: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel...” from 1:16-17. Then last week we looked

at the “Prosecution Section” of Romans, where Paul serves as a lawyer and indicts all of us for turning away from the worship of the Creator and instead worshipping the false or substitute gods found in creation. This week, we see how Christ provides what we need for our salvation. Paul walks across the courtroom and now becomes our defense attorney. It is good to have Paul and Christ in our corner.

1. Read Romans 3:21-26, 5:1-2, 6-10. From your initial reading, what thoughts, ideas, and words hit you? Why do they hit you? Is anything confusing? Why is it confusing?
2. Paul uses words from the slave market (3:24 *redemption*=to be set free); language from the temple or sacrificial language (3:25 *atonement*=the one who makes me *one with God* by taking my place, and *passed over*=exodus event with Passover lamb), the legal tradition (the court room), and covenantal-relational language (5:2 *access*=safe harbor, and 5:10 *reconciled*=brought back together in relationship) to describe how Jesus Christ is the Divine Breakthrough we need to help us overcome our human crisis. Which image or area helps you think about what Christ comes to offer us?
3. Several times in these verses it says or suggests that Christ’s help is made effective through our faith (e.g. 3:26, 5:1). We are saved by God’s grace—but through faith. I shared illustrations about penicillin from Alister McGrath and marriage from Martin Luther to try to explain the different components of faith. Were they helpful? Do you have a more helpful image or illustration that you could share with your group?
4. One way to study Scripture is to answer the questions: *What? So what? Now what?* What, if anything, do you sense you need to do in response to the radical breakthrough of Christ on your behalf? How can you “put your weight down” on this Good News from Scripture? Where can you show faith in response to God’s grace in Christ?

