



Sunday, July 22, 2018

WRESTLING WITH SCRIPTURE

Jonah: Is it Really About the Whale? | Jonah 3:10-4:11 (NIV)



8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME		Dave Steane
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Brett Hurst
SONG OF PREPARATION		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	Jonah: Is it Really All About the Whale? (Jonah 3:10-4:11)	Tara Reynolds
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION		
MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		
MESSAGE	Jonah: Is it Really All About the Whale? (Jonah 3:10-4:11)	Tara Reynolds
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		Sarah Stone

Musicians in these services: Gisele Duque and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders • Daniel Amaya, bass • George Heathco, guitar • Daniel Martinez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>Largo and Allegro</i>	Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Dave Steane
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>	#281; Vs. 1, 2, 3 CWM RHONDDA
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Amy Delgado
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	Vs. 1, 4 THE OLD RUGGED CROSS
HYMN SING • LENT/EASTER	<i>What Wondrous Love Is This</i> <i>Jesus Christ Is Risen Today</i> <i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>	Charles Hausmann #85; Vs. 1, 2 WONDROUS LOVE #123; Vs. 1, 2 EASTER HYMN #151; Vs. 1, 4 DIADEMATA
OFFERTORY	<i>He's Got the Whole World in His Hand</i>	arr. Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)
MESSAGE	Jonah: Is it Really All About the Whale? (Jonah 3:10-4:11)	Tara Reynolds
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Lord, Speak to Me</i>	#426; Vs. 1, 4 CANONBURY
POSTLUDE	<i>Rejoice, the Lord Is King</i>	arr. Alice Jordan (1916-2012)

Musicians in this service: Jason Amos, soloist • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organ/piano • Rick White, trombone

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374



Who do YOU know that would make a great MDPC ELDER?

The Nominating Committee seeks your help in nominating members with gifts that equip them for leadership at MDPC. Please prayerfully consider whom God may be preparing to serve as Elder, and then submit his/her name using the online process at nominations.mdpc.org or the printed forms found throughout the campus.

We need your help to nominate qualified candidates to serve as Elders on the MDPC Session!

Fear

It's a normal human emotion...but what do we do with it? Where is God in it? Hear from Pastor Beth Case and counselor-in-residence Amanda Grace Caldwell.

Sunday, August 5 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM | Amphitheater
Let us know you're coming: fear.mdpc.org

Summer Movie Series from Prime Timers

Beat the heat while enjoying these acclaimed films. Everyone is welcome, free of charge. Closed captioning provided.

Select Wednesdays at 3:00 PM | Amphitheater
July 25 - Woodlawn (PG)

August 1 - I Can Only Imagine (PG)

Review movie suitability for your family at pluggedin.com.

Communion More Often?

Do you want to experience The Lord's Supper more often than normally offered at MDPC? All are welcome for an extra communion service at 11:15 worship on August 5.

Wacky Wednesday Water Day!

Preschoolers, bring your parents for a day of water fun! So that it's a special time with your preschooler, we ask that elementary-age children not attend.

Wednesday, August 8 | 10:00 AM-Noon

Register by August 3: wacky.mdpc.org

Kids' Meals & Family BINGO Night

The monthly Kids' Meals service project, a delicious, affordable dinner, then Bingo - stay for the whole thing, or come for any part! Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday, August 8 | Starts at 4:30 PM

Details: bingo.mdpc.org

MDPC Theology On Tap

What do quesadillas, braised duck, cheap drinks, and questions about God and the Christian life all have in common? Come to Theology on Tap (the smaller, more conversational version) and find out! Expect compassionate but lively discussion with all perspectives and worldviews welcome!

Monday, July 23 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Caracol

For more info, text or call Sarah Stone: 832-605-8129

What A Relief!

Gentlemen, it's been a long year of both challenges and blessings for Houstonians. Come be encouraged by an influential speaker, Chad Williams, a retired Navy SEAL, bestselling author, and national speaker. Do you have a buddy who needs encouragement? Bring him along! Open to all men of all ages. \$20 admission includes lunch.

Saturday, Aug. 25 | 11:45 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
Registration and details: relief.mdpc.org

Bible Study for 20s & 30s

All young adults are invited to come out on Tuesday nights for dinner, conversation, and discussions about Scripture.

Tuesdays at 6:30 PM | The Heights

For more info, text or call Sarah Stone: 832-605-8129

Childhood Hunger Initiative: Juice Box Drive

We're collecting 100% fruit juice (only) boxes for Kids' Meals. Each weekday, KM delivers thousands of healthy meals to Houston's hungriest preschoolers. During the summer, in addition to feeding these children, meals also are delivered for all their school-age siblings. You can help KM meet the summer demand of 4,000 juice boxes daily!

Bring juice boxes to church on Sunday, August 5.

Collection bins will be located around campus.

Recreational Classes for Kids & Adults

Registration for fall REACH classes is open! ALL ages are invited to sign up for sports, art, music, and more. Summer camps still are available, too!

For a complete class list or to register, visit reach.mdpc.org.

Word & Worship 2018-2019

Throughout this study, we will saturate ourselves in Genesis. The stories of Adam & Eve, Noah & his ark, Joseph & that multi-colored coat...these inspired not only people who lived long ago, but also encourage us today to orient our lives around our God, who relentlessly pursues us.

Meetings begin September 14, run through April 2019

Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday options available

Details and registration (\$40): wordandworship.mdpc.org

Today's Chancel Flowers are given

- in loving memory of Ken Robertson, by Carol Lee Robertson.
- in honor of Leslie Robertson Kottwitz's birthday, by Carol Lee Robertson.

The White Rose is in memory of

- Sally Folger
- Tom Masterson, who passed away July 12, 2018.
- Helen Cates, who passed away February 2, 2018.

This week, please pray for these

MDPC Ministry Partners:

Knitting for Missions at MDPC: Several years ago, a group of women who enjoy knitting decided to knit for others. They began by knitting dolls for child patients of Faith in Practice and shawls for those under the care of Caring Ministries. Their projects now include preemie caps for Ben Taub Hospital, sweaters for Guatemalan children in mountain villages, and caps and scarves for Houston's homeless.

Contact Sue Phipps: sbhipps@comcast.net

The Outreach Foundation is an independent Presbyterian global mission organization. It seeks to build the capacity of the global church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by sending missionaries, caring for vulnerable children, expanding mission support, and transforming lives by spreading the Gospel.

theoutreachfoundation.org



Email Jan Roe to get involved: jroe@mdpc.org

MDPC in the Community

The House of Tiny Treasures preschool was opened by SEARCH Homeless Services in response to adult clients needing a safe, nurturing environment for their children while they job searched or took classes. What began as a day care has evolved into a nationally accredited education center dedicated to serving homeless families or those in deep poverty. On July 13, a team from MDPC spent time with the kids during the Fun Fridays event. We plan to go again!

Food Is More Than Just a Meal

All children deserve hope and a future! To that end, MDPC's Childhood Hunger Taskforce is collaborating with Houston Food Bank, SBISD, and Spring Woods Middle School. Education is a key element for escaping poverty, but research shows that hungry children do not learn as well as those with full tummies. How can you help? See "Happenings" above for info on MDPC's Juice Box Drive.

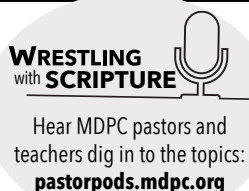


WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2018 Operating Budget	\$ 11,600,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 4,829,243
Actual Income to Date (7/15/18)	\$ 4,818,230
Current Income Deficit	\$ 11,013
Needed to Meet 2018 Budget	\$ 6,781,770



WRESTLING WITH SCRIPTURE



Jonah: Is it Really All About the Whale?

Jonah 3:10-4:11 (NIV) • Tara Reynolds preaching

Today we continue to journey through our summer sermon series, *Wrestling With Scripture*, by diving into the book of Jonah (pun intended). When we hear about the prophet Jonah, most of us automatically think of the great fish God commanded to swallow up Jonah after he boarded a boat headed in the opposite direction from where God had called Jonah to go: Nineveh. While this great fish plays an incredibly important role in the story, it really only has about two verses of scripture dedicated to it. In this sermon, we will look past the fish, and past Jonah's reluctance to be obedient to God, and journey into chapter 4, where we find some strange and tough text with which to wrestle.

1. Before we get into the weeds, you may want to read the entirety of the book of Jonah. Don't worry! It is only four short chapters that take about 7-10 minutes. It will help us understand the context around Jonah 3:10-4:11. What do you find interesting about the story of Jonah? What kind of prophet does he seem like to you? After reading through chapter 4, why do you think most people tend to stop the story of Jonah after chapter 3?
2. In her sermon, Tara mentioned how all of the characters in this story do not act the way you think they are going to act. Read Jonah 3:10. How does God respond to Nineveh's repentance in this story? Sometimes the "God of the Old Testament" is branded as brash and vengeful. How does God's action here reflect His true character?
3. Read Jonah 4:1-3. We finally get an answer to why Jonah ran from God's call to go to Nineveh in the first place. Why did he run? What is the irony in Jonah's statement about God being "gracious and compassionate...slow to anger and abounding in love"? (Ex. 34:6, Neh. 9:17, Ps. 86:15, Joel 2:13)
4. God asks Jonah three questions throughout this passage. The first one He asks in 4:4. How does Jonah respond to God's question? Why do you think Jonah responds the way he does?
5. In verses 6-8, some new "characters" enter the story: the leafy plant and the worm. What is God trying to help Jonah understand by causing this plant to grow and then wither? Jonah responds very bitterly to God's second question. Why is Jonah so bitter toward God? Can you at all relate to Jonah here?
6. Tara concluded her sermon by focusing on the last question God asks of Jonah. We don't get a response from him in this story, and we don't know what happens to Jonah next. Why do you think the author chooses to leave the story this way? Who is this story really supposed to speak to, and what is it saying? How does thinking of God as one who asks questions to redirect our lives speak to you about God's character and purpose for your life?

