

A 2019 SERIES DEALING WITH FAMILY DYSFUNCTION

THIS IS US

The Story of Joseph's Family...and Ours

A gripping drama of jealousy, sibling rivalry, blended families, betrayal, temptation, heartache, and revenge. It's the story of Joseph - but it's our story, too. Whether families of origin or families we've built, few leave their members completely free of scars. In this **six-week sermon series**, Pastor Alf explores familial dysfunctions against the backdrop of Joseph's own experience with these emotionally-charged issues.

We'll learn that while we cannot escape the hurts of our past, we need not be defined by them. With God's eternal hope and healing, it's possible to embrace a new future and, like Joseph, find forgiveness, redemption, and purpose.

Sunday Mornings beginning January 20



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Each year on Christmas Eve, MDPC collects a special offering to support select ministry partners. This year's Christmas Eve Offering will be sent to **14 MDPC-supported global mission field workers** and four local ministries (**Back 2 Basics, WorkFaith Connection, Be An Angel, and Gracewood**). When you put a gift into the offering plate on Christmas Eve, you are making a direct impact on a hurting world.

All checks with "Christmas Eve Offering" on the memo line and cash donations will be sent to bless the ministry partners listed above. *Because some of our partners work in security-sensitive contexts, not all names can be shared.*

LEARN MORE ABOUT MDPC

- > For Sunday Worship info: worship.mdpc.org
- > To live stream Sunday morning services: livestream.mdpc.org
- > To connect with a class or small group: groups.mdpc.org
- > To learn more about upcoming events: events.mdpc.org
- > Have kids? Visit kids.mdpc.org or youth.mdpc.org.

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING

For gifts of check or cash to be included in your 2018 giving statement, the gift must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. You may want to either drop your gift in the offering plate on Sunday, December 30, or bring it by the church office by Monday, December 31. The most convenient option is to give online at give.mdpc.org.

If you plan to make gifts from your IRA or Donor Advised fund, please request those soon to insure they are dated before the end of the year to be posted to 2018 giving.

If you plan to make a gift of stock, please request transfer from your account as soon as possible, as those gifts must arrive in the church's account before close of business December 28. Please contact Ava Caliendo at acaliendo@mdpc.org or 713-953-2574 for information on making a stock gift.



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24, 2018



Candlelight Services
5:30, 7:00, & 8:30 PM

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 AM BLENDED Service • Chapel
A blend of traditional hymns and contemporary music

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY Service • Sanctuary
Contemporary music led by our praise band

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL Service • Sanctuary
Traditional hymns and liturgy

11:15 AM SPANISH Service • Chapel
Worship in Spanish

5:00 PM BRAZILIAN Service • Chapel
Worship in Portuguese

WELCOME TO **MDPC**



Merry Christmas, Friends!

Welcome to Christmas Eve services at MDPC. In a new devotional I started December 1, I have been introduced to the book, *The God Who Comes*, by Carlo Carretto.

He writes helpfully for me, and hopefully for you too, when he says, “God is made human in Christ. God makes himself present to us with such a special presence, such an obvious presence, as to overthrow all the complicated calculations made about Him in the past. The invisible, intangible God has made himself visible and tangible in Christ. If Jesus is truly God, everything is clear; if I cannot believe this, everything darkens again.”

Tonight, may we listen, see, feel, sense, and believe.

As this wonderful old hymn proclaims:

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates
Behold the King of glory waits
The King of kings is drawing near
The Savior of the world is here!*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart
Make it a temple, set apart*

*From earthly use for heaven’s employ
Adorned with prayer and love and joy*

*Redeemer, come, with us abide
Our hearts to Thee we open wide
Let us Thy inner presence feel
Thy grace and love in us reveal*

Alf Halvorson
Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson, Senior Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

CCLI # 182374

PRELUDE	<i>The Shepherds, Movement III from Glad Tidings</i>	Randol Bass (b. 1953)
*OPENING CAROL	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	arr. John Rutter
WELCOME		Dave Steane (5:30 & 7:00) Trevor Harris (8:30)
*CAROL	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	MENDELSSOHN Hymn #31 Verses 1, 2, 3
SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 9:2-3 and 6-7	Brett Hurst (5:30), Beth Case (7:00) Dave Steane (8:30)
ANTHEM	<i>For Unto Us a Child Is Born (from Messiah)</i>	G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2:1-7	Brett Hurst (5:30), Beth Case (7:00) Trevor Harris (8:30)
ANTHEM	<i>What Sweeter Music Can We Bring</i>	John Rutter (b. 1945)
*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL	<i>O Holy Night (verses 1 & 3)</i>	Adolphe Adam
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		Dave Steane
OFFERTORY	<i>Mary, Did You Know?</i>	arr. Bruce Greer (b. 1961)
REFLECTION	What Is His Name? <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	Alf Halvorson
SERVICE OF CANDLES		Alf Halvorson
CONGREGATIONAL CAROL	<i>Silent Night</i>	STILLE NACHT Hymn #60 Verses 1, 2, 3, 4
*FINAL BLESSING		Alf Halvorson
POSTLUDE	<i>For Unto Us a Child Is Born (from Messiah)</i>	G. F. Handel

*Please stand if able.

Musicians participating in tonight’s services:

Miriam Belyatsky | violin
Chavdar Parashkevov | viola

Daniel Saenz | cello
Julio Sanchez | percussion
Kathryn White | organ

Rasa Kalesnykaite | violin
Charles Hausmann | conductor



Is there more to life?
Alpha’s interactive sessions start with a free meal and a short talk on a faith-related topic, followed by time for discussion. No question, belief, or idea is off limits. Say as much or as little as you want.

Tuesdays, February 5-March 26 • 6:30-8:15 PM
Alpha is **FREE**. Dinner and childcare are provided.
Info and registration: **alpha.mdpc.org**

Try it once or come each week. No pressure and no follow-up to return.



YOUTH CONFIRMATION 2019

For students currently in 8th grade or above. It’s a time to **focus** on what it means to **follow Jesus** and be part of His church.

Confirmation classes begin **Sunday, January 6, 2019**
Details and registration:
confirmation.mdpc.org

EPISODE 2
GUEST: PASTOR ALF

Being Human

YOU’RE FINE. I’M FINE. EVERYTHING’S FINE.

Are emotions bad? Is counseling wrong? What does God think of us when we’re anxious or depressed? How do the Bible and mental health intersect? Join seminarian Laurien Hook and Amanda Grace Caldwell, MA, LPC, in a podcast seeking answers to these questions and more.

Available now with more episodes coming soon: beinghuman.mdpc.org

PODCAST

**B90 IS AN ENGAGING
90-DAY BIBLE READING
EXPERIENCE**

**Sunday Mornings
11:15 AM**

B90.MDPC.ORG
Classes begin Sunday, January 6

**B90
READ THE BIBLE**

HUMAN SEXUALITY

MARRIAGE, FIDELITY, & SEXUAL SIN

HARRY SCHAUMBURG
Wednesday, February 13 • At MDPC

Mr. Schaumburg is a speaker, author, and counselor specializing in the area of sexual sin in the church. He is the director of Stone Gate Resources and the author of *False Intimacy: Understanding the Struggle of Sexual Addiction* and *Undeified: Redemption from Sexual Sin, Restoration for Broken Relationships*.

JUSTICE INITIATIVE