



Therefore Go

Matthew 28:16-20

Alf Halvorson preaching

We take a short break from our Apostles' Creed Series for Church in the City Sunday to focus on Christ's last words to His disciples from the Gospel of Matthew—inspiration for our serving the community and world on February 23. This is one of MDPC's 12 Strategic Goals: "One Sunday annually, worship by serving in our community, side by side with partners and friends." It is a reminder that worship is not just on Sundays in our Sanctuary or Chapel, but worship can take place as our lives are offered to God as a prayer every day of the week out in the world.

1. Were you able to participate in Church in the City this year? What location? What was your work? How did it go? Any new insights and friendships? What was your takeaway?
2. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What surprises you about verses 16 and 17? What hits you about the number 11? Why do you think some (or all) doubted or hesitated? Have you ever hesitated in the presence of something more wonderful than words and more shocking than you could imagine?
3. **Jesus assures them of His power** in verse 18. Is His power limited? Where does Jesus say He has power? Who do you think gave it to Him or how did He take it?
4. **Jesus gives them a mission/commission** in verses 19 and 20a. What is the mission? What does *going*, *baptizing*, and *teaching* mean to you? Is the order important? What does that section of Scripture say about our role, God's grace, and the content of our teaching?
5. **Jesus promises them His presence** in verse 20b. Is His presence promised in the future or the present? Sometimes or always? The task (the mission) is huge. How does the assurance of God's presence give them confidence? What happens in the Book of Acts?
6. The **bolded phrases above** in questions 3, 4, and 5 are profound gifts from our Savior and Lord. How might you apply them to your own life of faith and our church's work both inside our walls and to a "God-so-loved" but broken world? How would you live differently if you believed these words were true for you/us?

