

Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 1:1-11 | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the first in a several-week series this fall on Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians. Why? The main reason is that *nowhere else* in the New Testament do we see Paul’s enduring relationship with a particular church. What we see in 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Paul relates to the believers in Corinth over a number of years. And it was not an easy partnership for either side; they were both experiencing persecution/suffering. It seems in our world right now there is much stress, anxiety, fear, worry, and hardship, and Paul, through the Spirit, can speak to us—he went through it himself. Yet Paul made mistakes as he grew in what it means to be a pastor and leader, and the church at Corinth gave him a run for his money. They were a mess of conflicting motives and subgroups, each pursuing their own agenda, seeking power, and doing things to deeply hurt one another. Through it all, Christ’s Spirit kept urging reconciliation and partnership in the Gospel. In today’s world, when people who disagree are not talking to each other in ways that produce positive fruit for the kingdom, 2 Corinthians can guide us in faithfulness and collaboration in Christ.

1. Have you ever been part of a church where there was open conflict? What was the conflict about and what did you do about it? And how was it handled, poorly or well? When there is conflict in your family or amongst friends, what is the usual culprit and what is your typical approach to solving it?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11, noting the times Paul uses the words *we*, *us*, and *our*. What strikes you about the tone and approach of Paul as he starts his letter?
3. I talked through three words that Paul cascades through these verses: *mercies*, *consolation/console*, and *affliction*. How would you summarize what Paul is saying here? Does it ring true to you? Where do you say *yes* and where do you say *no*?
4. I said in my message that we can’t share something we haven’t received; but if we have been recipients of God’s care and mercies and specific acts of kindness, we are invited to come alongside others to help them in their difficulties. Share a time you felt God’s presence and help in your life. And share a current nudge from the Spirit for you to come alongside someone else to encourage them.
5. In verses 10 & 11, Paul says that God’s help is not a one-time act, but that He will continue to rescue us as we keep turning to Him. Why does Paul need to remind them of that fact? And why does he ask them to pray for him? Consult Matt. 5:43-48. Why is it so hard to keep hating our enemies when we are praying for them?
6. We celebrate(d) World Communion Sunday, October 5. How did I challenge us to put Paul’s verses into practice as we came to the table? How does God come alongside us through the elements? And how are we empowered to come alongside others as a result of the gifts & feeding received through the meal?

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Financial Update	as of Sep 28, 2025
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	9,198,246
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	5,005,046

Births and Deaths
Leigh McLeroy passed away October 1.
More information at memorials.mdpcc.org .



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

World Communion Sunday
Today we join a global celebration emphasizing Christian unity and the interconnectedness of all churches worldwide. In the 9:45 and 11:15 services, young believers who have just completed a communion retreat with their families will celebrate their first communion.

Lunch & Learn
Sun, Oct 5 | 12:30-1:30pm
Come learn about Stephen Ministry and how to potentially become a Stephen Minister. There’s no obligation, just an opportunity to hear about this special ministry from current Stephen Ministers. Learn more at lunchandlearn.mdpcc.org.

Preschool Bubble Day
Sat, Oct 18 | 10-11:30am
Master Bubble Wranglers will amaze us with giant bubbles and bubble tricks! This event is for preschoolers; must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Sign up today! kids.mdpcc.org

Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch
Mon, Oct 20 | 11am-1pm
Enjoy Christian fellowship at our monthly lunch! No reservations required. Order your food in



Give Online
give.mdpcc.org

To view all events, visit events.mdpcc.org.
MDPC Café and bring to our group’s tables in Fellowship Hall. Learn more at seniors.mdpcc.org.

New Women’s Bible Study
Thu, Oct 23-Nov 20 | 11:45am-1pm
Grab your Bible, your lunch, and your brave heart—because we’re diving into five powerful stories of courage and faith-full living! Free childcare available. Learn more and sign up: women.mdpcc.org

Young Adults Choctoberfest
Thu, Oct 30 | 6:30-9pm | MDPC
Join us for an evening of chocolatey treats, friendly competition, and community connection. Bring a homemade dessert creation to enter into the contest - or just come hungry and ready to vote! Details and RSVP: yaevents.mdpcc.org

Veterans Coffee & Connection
Sun, Nov 10 | 9:30-11am | Parlor
Come enjoy coffee and pastries, a devotional by Pastor Alf, and connecting with other veterans.

Women’s Spiritual Retreat
Sat, Nov 15 | 9am-3:30pm
Guided by the Spirit and led by faithful teachers Beth Case and Teri Adair, we will explore Scripture and reflect on how God’s mighty presence brings restoration, purpose, and peace. Learn more and register: delight.mdpcc.org



ALL-CHURCH LUNCH

Today in Fellowship Hall
Full menu and pricing:
ACL.mdpcc.org

Join your church family for lunch on the first Sunday of each month! October’s menu options include Cod Olympia, an entrée-sized Cobb Salad, and chicken tenders for the kids.

Served 11am-1pm





Come hear women just like you tell their stories! The Well is for all ages and stages.

THU, OCT 16
6:30 • REFRESHMENTS AT 6
Details and RSVP:
THEWELL.MDPCC.ORG

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Dan Aikins, Bin Wang
*Worship Songs	<i>Come, Now Is the Time to Worship How Great Thou Art</i>	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Clay Brown
Worship Song	<i>Blessed Assurance</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 1:1-11	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>What Can Wash Away My Sin</i>	
Communion		Alf Halvorson
Communion Music	<i>Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)</i>	

SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Amy Delgado, Bin Wang
*Worship Songs	<i>Freedom in this House A Thousand Hallelujahs</i>	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Matthew Adair
*Worship Song	<i>Trust in God</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 1:1-11	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>What Can Wash Away My Sin</i>	
Communion		Alf Halvorson
First Communion†		Rachel Poysky
Communion Music	<i>Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)</i>	

SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;
JJ Blanco, keys; Michael Middleton & Coppelia Acevedo, worship leaders

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	주 하나님 지으신 모든 세계 (<i>How Great Thou Art/Amazing Grace</i>)	arr. Jong-Ho Park
Call to Worship		Amy Delgado, Bin Wang
Choral Introit	<i>Let Us Break Break Together</i>	arr. George Lynn (1915-1989)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	Vs. 1, 4 LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Amy Delgado
*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles’ Creed		
*Congregational Response	<i>Salmo 23</i>	Vs. 1, 2, 4, 6 arr. Mauricio Centeno

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>Every Nation, Every Tribe</i>	arr. Stacey Nordmeyer
Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 1:1-11	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	<i>Trust and Obey</i>	Vs. 1, 4 #467 UMC HYMNAL TRUST AND OBEY
Prayers of the People The Lord’s Prayer		Bin Wang
Communion		Alf Halvorson
First Communion†		Rachel Poysky
Communion Music	<i>Ave Verum Corpus (Hail, True Body)</i>	Michael J. Trotta (b. 1978) <i>Serenade</i> Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

SENDING

*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	arr. Randall DeBruyn
Musicians: Su-Jin Cho, soloist Priscilla Salisbury, cantor Julio Sanchez, percussionist Sanctuary Choir Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director Kathryn White, organist/pianist		

*Please stand, if comfortable.		
†First Communion: Join us in prayer over the young believers who will take part today in their first celebration of this sacrament.		
Travis Anderson (9:45)		Hazel Meacham (9:45)
Sage Dillingham (9:45)		Rafael Moreira (9:45)
Wade Dillingham (9:45)		Cole Tackett (9:45)
Kendall Fedorko (9:45)		Brooke Wallis (9:45)
Luke Karbach (9:45)		Campbell White (11:15)
Mae Meacham (9:45)		





3rd GRADE BIBLES

THIRD GRADE BIBLE RETREAT

Sun, Nov 2 | 12:30-2pm

Kids will learn how to navigate the Bible, be introduced to the books of the Bible, and simply get comfortable and ready to explore the Word!

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Sun, Nov 9 | Details at tgb.mdpc.org

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out! Visit staff.mdpc.org for contact information and ministry areas.