

Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 NRSV | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the 11th message in our fall sermon series on Paul’s second letter to the church in Corinth. Last week, Paul shared the profound idea that “we are ambassadors for Christ”; that God is making His appeal of love through us to our broken and in-need world. Now, in chapter 6, Paul challenges his congregation not to let that calling be missed, or to be done in vain. He shares some of the most pointed and challenging ideas in the whole letter right here.

1. When have you had a “now or never” moment, and you chose wisely? When did you miss out on something possibly grand because of fear or busyness or lack of insight at the critical juncture?
2. Read 2 Cor. 6:1-13. Focus on vss. 1-2 and vss. 11-13. How would you summarize Paul’s message or main point? And how does he and his team model what he is hoping to find or draw out of the Corinthians?
3. Now attend to verses 3-10. In my message, I suggested that there are four different and specific sections in Paul’s blizzard of troubles. There are internal conflicts in verse 4; external tribulations in verse 5; there are examples of the effort required to walk out the Christian life in verses 6-7; and then the paradoxical life we live if we serve, love, sacrifice, and function as ambassadors in the world in verses 8-10. What hits you about each section? And can you relate to something in each area? What? And why?
4. I used some quotes and illustrations to get at the idea that we aren’t guaranteed tomorrow. We must act now. Today. Later might never come. Which quote or image hit you the most and why? Did God prompt you regarding any area of your life to make the needed move during this Advent/Christmas season?
5. Where can you pray for each other? Where might you need to hold each other accountable to your best instincts and intentions? And where might you thank God and live in gratitude for Christ doing for us and our world what was best when needed?


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Financial Update as of Dec 7, 2025	
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	11,514,048
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	2,689,244



Sign up to Serve on Christmas Eve
Many hands are needed to welcome visitors and help with the offering. Sign up at greet.mdpc.org.

Share the Joy of Communion!
Current and former Elders and Deacons, please consider signing up to serve communion in 2026. See next year’s communion dates and roles (help needed with set up, service, or clean up) at communionserver.mdpc.org.

Summer Internship with MDPC Kids
 Scan the QR code or email Keri at kmosk@mdpc.org for information on this meaningful, fun-filled opportunity!

31 Days of Prayer
A small treasury of prayer awaits you—thirty-one offerings born from the hearts of women at MDPC. Written in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, these prayers rise from different tongues yet share one melody: a longing to love and treasure Jesus. Learn more and download a copy at 31days.mdpc.org, or pick up a hard copy at the front office.

Married Life Prep
Sat, Jan 3 & 10 | 9am-1pm | MDPC
We want to help engaged and young married couples experience a rich fullness in marriage! This

free series is open to dating couples, engaged couples, newlyweds, and young marrieds. It combines Biblical teaching with the best current marriage research. Learn more and register: mlp.mdpc.org


Transforming Grief
Wednesdays, Jan 21-Mar 11 | 4:30-6pm
Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? If so, you are not alone. Come join others in an 8-week program based on Walking the Mourner’s Path: Transforming Grief into Joyful Living. Group size is limited to 10. Trained facilitators guide the group. Register: grief.mdpc.org

Apply to Become a Stephen Minister
Applications due in Dec | Training starts Jan 13
Do others turn to you in times of need? Do you have a compassionate heart and a listening ear? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister, providing confidential one-to-one Christian care. To learn more, visit stephentraining.mdpc.org.



Women Together
Thu, Jan 22 | 6:30-8pm
All women from the Fuente, Brazilian, and English-speaking congregations are invited to a night of good food, conversation, and prayer! Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share. Free child-care available. Register: together.mdpc.org

**Online Giving** give.mdpc.org

**All Events** events.mdpc.org



HOME FROM COLLEGE? We’d love to see you, get to know you, and invite you to our 3-week MDPC Youth Alumni* Christmas Break Bible Study! Join us for a casual drop-in on **SUNDAY, DEC 21, 11:15AM-12:15PM** in the Youth Area to reconnect and hear what’s happening this break.
*Includes anyone who was involved in any MDPC Youth events, or any college-aged students who want to get connected to our MDPC Youth Alumni programming while they’re home.



BEING A DAD ISN’T MEANT TO BE A SOLO CLIMB. At The Dad Summit, we come together to learn from one another—veteran dads sharing wisdom, younger dads finding encouragement, and everyone connecting over the real, faith-filled journey of fatherhood.
SAT, JAN 17 | 8:15-11AM AT MDPC

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
*Worship Songs	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i> <i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	
Advent Candle Lighting		The Morris Family
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Amanda Grace Morris
Worship Songs	<i>What a Beautiful Name Christmas Medley</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>Medley of Carols</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction	Alf Halvorson
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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Opening Song	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	
*Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
Baptisms & Reaffirmation of Faith		Alf Halvorson and Beth Case
	Sienna Townes Johnson, daughter of Sean and Katherine Johnson	
	Canyon Rae Jones, daughter of Garrett and Melanie Jones	
	Shepherd Wade Jones, son of Garrett and Melanie Jones	
	Oliver Abbott O'Keefe, son of Patrick and Caitlin O'Keefe	
	John "Jack" Taylor Peyton, son of Harry and Caitlin Peyton	
	Turner Miller Coleman, son of Ross and Katy Coleman	
	Delaney Donalee Frank, daughter of Austin and Lindsay Frank	
	Rebecca Wu, daughter of Jose Wu	

Congregational Response Prayer	Beth Case
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*Worship Song	<i>Holy Forever (Christmas)</i>
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Advent Candle Lighting	The Fedorko Family
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*Confession & Assurance	Sally Henien
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*Worship Song	<i>What a Beautiful Name Christmas Medley</i>
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HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>Medley of Carols</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction	Alf Halvorson
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Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums | Chris Parrott, guitar | JJ Blanco, keys | Uvaldo Callejas, bass
Tim Hughes, violin | Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	<i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
Choral Introit	<i>Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light</i> <i>(from The Christmas Oratorio)</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	Vs. 1, 2, 4 #9 IRBY
Advent Candle Lighting		The French Family
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Beth Case

*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed

*Congregational Response	<i>Watchman, Tell Us of the Night</i>	Vs. 1, 2 #20 ABERYSTWYTH
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HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>His Light Still Shines</i>	Mary McDonald (b.1956)
Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	Vs. 1, 3 #23 GLORIA
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		Beth Case
Anthem of Response	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	arr. Chad Fothergill (b.1983)

SENDING

*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Sussex Carol</i>	arr. Raymond Haan (b. 1938)

Musicians: MDPC Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, organist

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES at MDPC

Contemporary Candlelight Service • 2pm • In the Sanctuary

Contemporary worship with MDPC praise band and message by Pastor Alf

Family Service • 4pm • In the Sanctuary

Energetic, kid-friendly, and interactive! Join Pastors Rachel Poysky and Alf Halvorson as they tell the Christmas story in a way the whole family will love.

Traditional Candlelight Services • 5:30, 7, 8:30pm • In the Sanctuary

Traditional worship with a message from Pastor Alf and full choir, organ, and a chamber orchestra

Experience the Nativity Animal Petting Zoo! Open 3-8pm.

Childcare is available for all five services for children aged 3 months-5 years.

*Mission***MARKET** Christmas Cards

Give the gift of hope for Christmas this year when you purchase cards in honor of friends and loved ones. Donations go directly to an MDPC ministry partner to fund life-saving surgeries, safe and loving homes for children, life-transforming education, wheelchairs, and so much more.

Shop Nov 30-Dec 23
Sundays in the Lobby or weekdays in the Front Office missionmarket.mdpc.org

