

Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 NRSV | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the 12th message in our fall series using Paul's second letter to the Corinthians to consider our own Christian lives, how we can avoid some of their errors, and how to apply the Good News in our own time and place. Today we come upon a text that seems ill-fitted for the Sunday before Christmas; that may be, but, amid seemingly insensitive comments, Paul drops some of the most profound words ever penned about the incarnation (the coming in the flesh of Jesus the Christ) and how we, in the end, become temples of the living God.

1. What are you most excited about regarding Christmas this year? Are you anxious or worried or fearful of anything? Is there a relationship that could add great joy or profound sadness depending on how things go? Where do you have choices? And where do you not?
2. Read 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1. If verse 14 means "do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers," or "don't put an ox and a donkey together to try to plow a field," what do you think Paul is getting at with this image regarding the life of faith?
3. In verses 14b-16a, Paul asks five rhetorical questions to try to cement his argument that there are some things that fundamentally just don't go together, like oil and water. How do you answer each of his five questions? And with verses 6:17-7:1, what is Paul arguing here? Why can *separation* from (the opposite of where you want to go) be a blessing or grace?
4. The one Christmas section in this passage seems to be vs. 16b, "For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Why is that such Good News?
5. I talked about the incarnation in my message; that God comes in the flesh, and dwells among us, and even lives within us as we become temples of the living God. I shared a few images to try to make the point of how profound and staggering and amazing that news is. What point or image or phrase hit you this year? Why and how might it alter your life in some positive way, knowing you are not alone, but God is with you?
6. How might you, as the great Christmas carol "Joy to the World" says, *prepare Him room* this Christmas?

Financial Update as of Dec 14, 2025

2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	12,373,799
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	1,829,493



Sun, Dec 21, 2025

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 communionservers.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 **TODAY, 11:15AM-12:15PM** in the Youth Area to reconnect and hear what's happening this break. Friends are welcome, too!



Sat, Jan 17 8:15am-11am
MDPC | Fellowship Hall

Dads, come together to learn from one another—veteran dads sharing their wisdom, younger dads finding encouragement, and everyone connecting over the real, faith-filled journey of fatherhood.



REGISTER HERE

Beautifully BROKEN



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Amy Delgado
Worship Songs	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High God With Us</i>	
Advent Candle Lighting		The Hulings Family
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Clay Brown
Worship Songs	<i>Hope Has a Name (O Come, All Ye Faithful)</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>Joy to the World</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
Worship Songs	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High God With Us</i>	
Advent Candle Lighting		The Moreira Family
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Matthew Adair
Worship Songs	<i>Hope Has a Name (O Come, All Ye Faithful)</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>Joy to the World</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
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Musicians in these services: 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>Once in Royal David's City</i>	arr. Robert Hobby (b. 1962)
Call to Worship		Amy Delgado
Choral Introit	<i>Masters in This Hall</i>	arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1950)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>The First Nowell</i>	Vs. 1, 2, 4 #56 THE FIRST NOWELL
Advent Candle Lighting		The Ehorn Family
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Christyn Knoop
*Affirmation of Faith from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20		
*Congregational Response <i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	Vs. 1 #48 Es Ist Ein' Ros'	

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>Mary, Did You Know</i>	arr. Bruce Greer (b. 1961)
Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	<i>Joy to the World</i>	Vs. 1, 3 #40 ANTIOCH
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		Amy Delgado
Anthem of Response	<i>The Angel's Carol</i>	John Rutter (b. 1945)

SENDING

*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	Robert Hobby (b. 1962)

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 full choir, organ, and chamber orchestra, and message by Pastor Alf.

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.

Through Sun, Dec 21 • Final Day to Shop!
Visit Us in the Sanctuary Lobby

missionmarket.mdpc.org