

# Sermon Notes

Isaiah 9:2-7 NIV | Written by Rev. Dr. Rachel Poysky

Isaiah offered these prophetic words to the people of Israel during a time of defeat, economic fear, political instability, and spiritual failure. In many ways, his words feel deeply relevant for us today as well. Isaiah paints a picture of a coming Messiah who will usher in a new kind of Kingdom.

## A Kingdom That Is Strong, Not Fragile

This Kingdom will begin through a child, yet it will not be fragile. God's power is revealed not through domination, but through humble faithfulness. Why do you think God chose to reveal His power through a child?

## A Kingdom That Will Not End

This kingdom will be everlasting. Earthly kingdoms rise and fall, shaped by fear, power, and self-preservation. God's Kingdom, however, is rooted in justice, peace, and salvation. What are the marks of temporary kingdoms throughout history? What makes God's kingdom different?

## The Call to Hope and Trust

Isaiah's prophecy calls us to two essential responses: **hope and trust**.

Karl Barth writes, "*Hope is not optimism. It is the knowledge that God is faithful.*" Biblical hope is not wishful thinking or positive spin; it is a grounded confidence in who God is and what He has promised. How would you describe the difference between optimism and hope? Which one is harder for you to live out right now?

## Strengthening Our "Trust Muscles"

Faith often requires trusting that God is already at work before we can see results or outcomes. Trust grows through practice. Read the following passages together and reflect on how they connect to Isaiah's message:

- **Lamentations 3:22-23**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:24**
- **Hebrews 10:23**

What would it look like for you to live differently this year if you truly trusted that God's Kingdom will not fail?

## A Note About Year-End Giving

As December 31 approaches, year-end gifts continue to be an important way we collectively support the mission and ministry of MDPC. We trust God to help close the remaining \$544,244 gap, grateful for the gifts that reflect your faith, generosity, and commitment.

- **To count toward your 2025 returns, donations must be received no later than Dec 31;** mailed checks must be postmarked by Dec 31.
- MDPC's front office will be open until 5pm on Dec 31.
- If the office is closed, the drop box next to the front office door will be available.
- The Prayer Chapel drop box will be checked at 10pm on Dec 31 for final 2025 gifts.

## Financial Update as of Dec 21, 2025

2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	13,659,048
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	544,244

## Births and Deaths

Jim Cordell passed away Dec 22.  
More information at [memorials.mdpc.org](http://memorials.mdpc.org).



Sun, Dec 28, 2025

## Church in the City: Save the Date!

**Sat & Sun, Feb 21-22, 2026**

Join your MDPC family for this annual all-church day of service, when MDPC leaves the pews to serve some of our local outreach partners. Registration opens in January.

## Men's Life Next Steps

**Tue, Feb 3-17 | 7-8am**

When life feels blurry, God's Word brings the lens into focus—clarity isn't just possible, it's promised. Men, let's challenge ourselves to grow deeper in understanding so that things become more crystal clear! Register: [ml.mdpc.org](http://ml.mdpc.org)

## Women's Retreat

**Fri-Sun, Feb 6-8 | Iron Horse Ranch**

Let's get away! Enjoy fellowship and relaxation in a beautiful country setting. There will be downtime, small groups, and a time of teaching. Enjoy the beauty this venue has to offer and leave feeling pampered! Register: [getaway.mdpc.org](http://getaway.mdpc.org)

## Dad Camp

**Sat-Sun, Feb 28-Mar 1 | MDPC**

An overnight campout with food, fun, and activities! Bring your tent(s), sleeping bags, Bibles, and kids. Learn more and sign up: [men.mdpc.org](http://men.mdpc.org)

## 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](http://31days.mdpc.org), or pick up a hard copy at the front office.

## On Mission in Greece

**May 15-23, 2026**

Help care for missionary kids during The Antioch Partners retreat. Learn more: [greece.mdpc.org](http://greece.mdpc.org)

## Summer Internship with MDPC Kids

Scan the QR code or email Keri Mosk at [kmosk@mdpc.org](mailto:kmosk@mdpc.org) for details about this meaningful, fun-filled opportunity!



**Online Giving** [give.mdpc.org](http://give.mdpc.org)



**All Events** [events.mdpc.org](http://events.mdpc.org)



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

**Wed, 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 guided by trained facilitators. Group size limited to 10. Learn more & register: [grief.mdpc.org](http://grief.mdpc.org)





## 8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

### GATHERING

Call to Worship	Beth Case
Worship Songs	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful Here I Am to Worship</i>
*Confession & Assurance   Prayers of the People	Beth Case
Worship Song	<i>Holy Forever (Christmas)</i>

### HEARING THE WORD

Message	<b>Prophecy of Hope</b> Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)	Rachel Poysky
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### RESPONDING

Offertory	<i>What Child Is This Medley</i>
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### SENDING

*Doxology	OLD 100TH
*Benediction	Rachel Poysky

## 9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

### GATHERING

*Call to Worship	Beth Case
Worship Songs	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful Here I Am to Worship</i>
*Confession & Assurance   Prayers of the People	Beth Case
Worship Song	<i>Holy Forever (Christmas)</i>

### HEARING THE WORD

Message	<b>Prophecy of Hope</b> Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)	Rachel Poysky
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### RESPONDING

Offertory	<i>What Child Is This Medley</i>
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### SENDING

*Doxology	OLD 100TH
*Benediction	Rachel Poysky

Musicians in these services: Asher Pudlo, drums | Chris Parrott, guitar | Uvaldo Callejas, bass  
JJ Blanco, keys | Coppelia Acevedo & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

\*Please stand, if comfortable.

## 11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

### GATHERING

Prelude	<i>Strange Way to Save the World</i>	Harris/Koch/Clark
Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>From Heaven Above</i> Vs. 1, 2, 4   #54   arr. Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)	
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i> Vs. 1, 2, 4   #22   REGENT SQUARE	
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Beth Case
*Affirmation of Faith from the Nicene Creed		
*Congregational Response	<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i> Vs. 3   #28   IN DULCI JUBILO	

### HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>Light of the World</i>	Karen Marrolli (b. 1975)
Message	<b>Prophecy of Hope</b> Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)	Rachel Poysky

### RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i>	Vs. 1, 3   #29   Go TELL IT
Prayers of the People   The Lord's Prayer		Beth Case
Offertory	<i>Star of Wonder</i>	Alan Bullard (b. 1947)
<b>SENDING</b>		
*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592   OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Rachel Poysky
Postlude	<i>Shepherd's Noel</i>	J. Wayne Kerr (b. 1957)

Musicians: Jason Amos, soloist | Cassandra Black, Priscilla Salisbury, Kelli Estes, Megan Berti, Riley Vagis, Christine Oakes, Jason Amos, Chris Childress, Nathan Lerner, Antoine Griggs, John Bond, Chris Love; choral ensemble | Kathryn White, organist/pianist



You're Invited to  
**ALL-CHURCH LUNCH**  
Sun, Jan 4 | 11am-1pm  
Fellowship Hall

Join your church family for lunch on the first Sunday of each month!  
Pricing and menu:  
[ACL.mdpc.org](http://ACL.mdpc.org)






**DAD SUMMIT**  
CLIMBING HIGHER TOGETHER  
MDPC | Fellowship Hall

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.




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