

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 .	



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.

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. Learn more and register: mlp.mdpc.org

Mahjong Mondays
Mon, Jan 12-Feb 23 | 1-3pm
Learn the game through complimentary beginner lessons and enjoy a relaxed, welcoming community. Soon you’ll be talking Bam, Dot, and Crack like a pro—promise it’s not a secret code. Sign up: women.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 childcare available. Register: together.mdpc.org

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



Online Giving give.mdpc.org

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

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


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

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.


On Mission in Greece
May 15-23, 2026
Help care for missionary kids during The Antioch Partners retreat. Learn more: greece.mdpc.org



All Events events.mdpc.org



Transforming Grief
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



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



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

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

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Prophecy of Hope Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)	Rachel Poysky
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RESPONDING

Offertory	What Child Is This Medley	
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SENDING

*Doxology	OLD 100TH	
*Benediction	Rachel Poysky	

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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

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

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Prophecy of Hope Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)	Rachel Poysky
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RESPONDING

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

HEARING THE WORD

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

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	Go, Tell It on the Mountain	Vs. 1, 3 #29 GO TELL IT
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		Beth Case
Offertory	Star of Wonder	Alan Bullard (b. 1947)

SENDING

*Doxology	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Rachel Poysky
Postlude	Shepherd's Noel	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

THE DAD SUMMIT

CLIMBING HIGHER TOGETHER
BECOMING CONNECTED TO GOD'S PURPOSE

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 for contact information and ministry areas.