

SERMON NOTES

1 John 3:16-18 & 1 John 4:7-12 (NRSV) | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This week's message invites us to look honestly and hopefully at the four kinds of love C. S. Lewis describes in his book, *The Four Loves* (Affection [storge], Friendship [philia], Romantic Love [eros], and Charity [agape]) and how each one is reshaped and empowered by God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. John reminds us that love is not merely sentimental but action-oriented, and that God's love finds its completion in us when we—in real life—actively love one another. As you reflect on these Scriptures and Lewis' insights, consider how each love is showing up—or needs to show up—in your life, family, friendships, and church community.

1. Where did one of the “four loves” show up most clearly in your life this past week? Which love comes most naturally to you, and which one feels most challenging?
2. Read 1 John 3:16-18 & 1 John 4:7-12. John calls us to “love not just in word or speech, but in truth and action.” What is one practical act of love you sensed God nudging you toward during the sermon?
3. Affection (Storge): Think about your closest circle—family, long-term friends, neighbors. What small act of warmth, forgiveness, or steadiness could strengthen one of those relationships?
4. Friendship (Philia): Lewis says friendship begins when someone says, “You too?” Is there a friendship you need to rekindle, repair, or pursue more intentionally?
5. Romantic Love (Eros): Whether married or single, what does it look like for you to keep your deepest desires rooted in Christ rather than in idealized romance or unmet longings?
6. Charity (Agape): Agape is self-giving love toward someone who may never repay you. Who is one person God might be inviting you to bless sacrificially this week?
7. Church Community: Which part of my vision of a community shaped by all four loves most inspires you? Where do you see MDPC already living it out? What role might you play with the Spirit's help and Christ's example?

Financial Update as of Mar 8, 2026

2026 Annual Budget	\$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	2,766,565
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	11,962,163

Births and Deaths

Janice Hodge passed away March 9.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Sun, Mar 15, 2026



Journey to Easter

Sat, Mar 28 | 10am-12pm

Join us for Journey to Easter at MDPC! At this free outdoor festival, families are invited to participate in interactive stations to learn the true story of Easter! Enjoy live music, a petting zoo, face painting, inflatables and more!

CityServe with MDPC Young Adults

Sat, Mar 28 | 9:30am-12:30pm

New to the city? Looking for friends, faith, or a meaningful connection? You're not alone! City-Serve is a monthly gathering for young adults in their 20s and 30. We'll serve side by side, then grab lunch at a local spot. See project details and more: cityserve.mdpc.org

The Spoken Word

Mar 30-Apr 2 | Chapel

MDPC's annual Holy Week cover-to-cover reading of the Bible returns! Sign up individually, with family, groups, or friends. Registration is open now: tsw.mdpc.org

Holy Week & Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, Apr 2 | Chapel | 7-8pm

Communion Service

Good Friday, Apr 3 | Sanctuary | Noon

Easter Sunday, Apr 5 | Sanctuary
7, 8:15, 9:45, 11:15am

Youth Connection

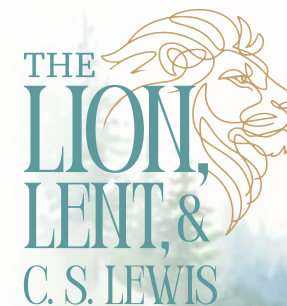
Every Sunday | 11:15am-12:15 pm

Students come together for fellowship, teaching, and worship. Middle and high school meet separately. All ages, come to the Youth Loft upstairs in the CLC and we'll get you sorted!

MDPC Concert Series

Sun, Apr 26 | 6-7:30pm | Free Admission

The Creation by Joseph Haydn with multimedia and congregational hymns. MDPC Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra. Experience one of music's greatest masterpieces in this multimedia presentation depicting the creation of the world. Learn more: springconcert.mdpc.org



Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Alf

Wednesdays through Apr 1 | 6:30pm | Amphitheater

Journey through the Lenten season with Scripture and the wisdom of C.S. Lewis as our guides. Come to one session, or come to them all! Dinner is available in the MDPC Café prior to the study. Learn more: lion.mdpc.org



Online Giving give.mdpc.org



All Events events.mdpc.org



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship Beth Case

Worship Songs *Hosanna (Praise is Rising)*
How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Dan Aikins

*Worship Song *Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty*

HEARING THE WORD

Message **The Lion, Lent, & C. S. Lewis: Four Loves** Alf Halvorson
1 John 3:16-18 and 1 John 4:7-12 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Song of Response *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*

SENDING

*Doxology *Old 100th*

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Call to Worship Beth Case

Worship Songs *How Good It Is*
God So Loved

*Confession and Assurance | Prayers of the People Christyn Knoop

*Worship Songs *Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty*
How Great Is Your Love

HEARING THE WORD

Message **The Lion, Lent, & C. S. Lewis: Four Loves** Alf Halvorson
1 John 3:16-18 and 1 John 4:7-12 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Song of Response *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*

SENDING

*Doxology *Old 100th*

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

Musicians in these services: Asher Pudlo, drums | Uvaldo Callejas, bass | Chris Parrott, guitar
Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* J. Kellner (1705-1772)
Ah, Holy Jesus J. Brahms (1833-1897)

Call to Worship Beth Case

Choral Introit *God So Loved the World* Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

*Hymn of Praise *O Jesus, I Have Promised* Vs. 1, 4 | #388 | ANGEL'S STORY

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon Amy Delgado

*Affirmation of Faith from the United Church of Canada

*Congregational Response *Glory Be to the Father* #579 | GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation *O Light of Life* Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Message **The Lion, Lent, & C. S. Lewis: Four Loves** Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response *He Lives* Vs. 1, 3 | #220 | ACKLEY
FROM THE HYMNAL FOR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

*Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer Beth Case

Anthem of Response *We Shall Walk Through the Valley*
arr. Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989)

SENDING

*Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592 | OLD 100TH

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

Postlude *There's a Longing in Our Hearts* K. White

Musicians in this service: Su-Jin Cho, soloist | MDPC Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, organist

Our pastors are here to help. We'd love to hear from you!



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Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week's prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit partners.mdpc.org.