

SERMON NOTES

1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 12:12-27; Matthew 16:13-18 (NRSV)

Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

Church can be both beautiful and frustrating. Lewis reminds us that the enemy cloves to use our disappointment with imperfect people to stunt our growth, drawing our attention to squeaky boots and off-key singers rather than to a holy God who meets us through community. Yet Christ chooses to work through this imperfect family, spreading what Lewis calls a “good infection” of His life as we grow together as one body.

1. What early disappointments with church have you experienced, and how did you move through them? Where have you seen this at MDPC or in your small group?
2. Read 1 Cor. 11:17-22. What mess does Paul confront in that particular church in those verses? Why would that be so frustrating for those who didn't get the Lord's Supper? Why is selfishness so destructive in relationships and groups?
3. Read 1 Cor. 12:12-31. Where do you most feel your need for the other parts of Christ's body right now? What gift(s) might you have to share? What blessings can only come from others?
4. From Lewis' quote, how has someone recently “carried Christ” to you?
5. What helps you stay centered on Christ instead of church imperfections? We all have our version of squeaky boots; what helps you look past them?
6. What is one small practice that could help you grow from idealism to steady discipleship?
7. Where do you see grace taking root in our imperfect church family and in your life right now? Pray for eyes to recognize the ways Christ is being carried to you through others, and the willingness to carry Christ to someone this week.

Financial Update as of Mar 15, 2026

2026 Annual Budget	\$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	3,048,472
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	11,680,256

MDPC 11612 Memorial Drive, 77024 | mdpc.org | 713.782.1710

Sun, Mar 22, 2026



Journey to Easter

Sat, Mar 28 | 10am-12pm

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

Living Water Palm Sunday Offering

Sun, Mar 29 | In the 8:30, 9:45, 11:15am services

Each year on Palm Sunday, a special offering is collected to support Living Water International. This offering is MDPC's gift to LWI for the year and goes directly toward providing clean water to those in need, as well as sharing the Gospel of

Jesus Christ. Donate by enclosing your gift in the envelopes provided or online at lwigift.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 | 7pm

Communion Service

Good Friday, Apr 3 | Sanctuary | Noon

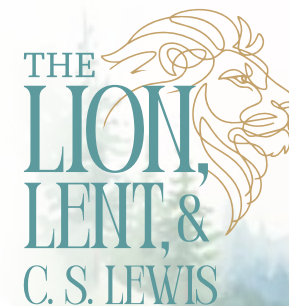
Easter Sunday, Apr 5 | Sanctuary

7, 8:15 (note earlier time), 9:45, 11:15am

Easter Lilies

Purchase through Palm Sun, Mar 29

Easter lilies may be dedicated in memory or honor of loved ones. Dedications appear in the digital Easter Sunday bulletin, with printed copies available. To order: flowers.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

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



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship Dan Aikins

Worship Songs *Here for You*
Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Beth Case

Worship Songs *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
Lead Me to the Cross

HEARING THE WORD

Message **The Lion, Lent, & C. S. Lewis** Alf Halvorson
1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 12:12-27 and Matthew 16:13-18 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Communion Alf Halvorson
All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to The Lord's Table.

Communion Music *Abide*

SENDING

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship Dan Aikins

Worship Songs *How Good It Is*
Here for You

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Amanda Shockley

*Worship Songs *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
Lead Me to the Cross

HEARING THE WORD

Message **The Lion, Lent, & C. S. Lewis** Alf Halvorson
1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 12:12-27 and Matthew 16:13-18 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Communion Alf Halvorson
All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to The Lord's Table.

Communion Music *Abide*

SENDING

*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 *There Is a Balm in Gilead* Gilbert Martin (b. 1941)
Beneath the Cross of Jesus David Cherwin (b. 1957)

Call to Worship Bin Wang

Choral Introit *Joined Together As One Body* James Biery (b. 1956)

*Hymn of Praise *The Church's One Foundation* Vs. 1, 2, 5 | #442 | AURELIA

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon Beth Case

*Affirmation of Faith from The Heidelberg Catechism

*Congregational Response Psalm 51 Vs. 1, 6, 8 | #196 | ISELE

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation *Lonesome Valley* arr. Brad Nix (b. 1975)

Message **The Lion, Lent, & C. S. Lewis** Alf Halvorson
1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 12:12-27 and Matthew 16:13-18 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

*Hymn *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* Vs. 1, 3, 4 | #438 | DENNIS

Communion Alf Halvorson
All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to The Lord's Table.

Choral Anthem *O God, Do Not Keep Silent* arr. Edwin M. Willmington (b. 1947)

Organ Solo *My Song Is Love Unknown* Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

SENDING

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

Postlude *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* John Leavitt (b. 1956)

Musicians in this service: Antoine Griggs, 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.