

SERMON NOTES

2 Corinthians 13:13 and Matthew 3:16-17 (NRSV) | Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This message reminds us that the Trinity is not a doctrine Christians are asked to master so much as the living God who has made Himself known in Scripture, worship, and salvation. In passages like 2 Corinthians 13:13 and Matthew 3:16-17, we do not simply get abstract ideas about God—we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit revealed in relation to one another and in relation to us.

These questions are meant to help us reflect on what these passages show us about who God is, why the Trinity matters, and how this truth shapes the way we worship and live.

1. What part of the sermon helped you understand the Trinity more clearly—or at least helped you appreciate why it matters?
2. In 2 Corinthians 13:13, Paul speaks of “the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.” What does that verse suggest about how Christians already experience the Trinity in everyday faith and worship?
3. In Matthew 3:16-17, Jesus is baptized, the Spirit descends, and the Father speaks. What does this moment reveal about the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Why does that scene matter for Christian belief?
4. Why do you think the doctrine of the Trinity can feel difficult or distant to many Christians? Have you experienced that yourself?
5. The sermon says that God is eternally relational—not lonely, needy, or incomplete. How does that change the way you think about God’s love and about the life we are called to share with others?
6. If we are made in the image of the triune God, what might it look like for our church, friendships, or family life to reflect unity, love, and self-giving without sameness?

Sun, June 21, 2026



Upcoming Global Mission Trips

God is at work around the world, and MDPC invites you to be part of it. Join us on one of our upcoming global mission trips to visit partners in Honduras or Southeast Asia or participate in a partner-led trip to Guatemala or Turkey. Learn more at trips.mdpc.org.

Ladies Slice of Summer: Game Night!

Thu, Jun 25 | 6-8:30pm | Summit Rm

You're invited to Game Night! Laughter, friendly competition, and light bites. Childcare available. RSVP: slice.mdpc.org

YA World Cup Potluck Social

Sat, Jun 27 | 5-8pm | CLC 265

Calling all young adults in their 20s and 30s! Celebrate the excitement of the World Cup with an international potluck. Bring a dish to share representing one of the World Cup nations, compete in trivia, or jump in a casual pick-up soccer match in the Gym. Details and RSVP: ya.mdpc.org

Youth Alumni Summer Bible Study

Tue through Jul 28 | 7pm | MDPC

MDPC Youth Alumni (AKA all of our current college-age students and friends), this is a space for you to reconnect, build community, and grow in your faith while you're home for the summer. You are welcome anytime! youthevents.mdpc.org

Wednesday Night Summer Bible Study

Weds through Jul 1 | 6:30-7:30pm | Summit Rm

Open to everyone! Join Dr. Clay Brown in a look at the book of Jonah. Our study of this powerful and often-overlooked book will be a rich opportunity

for learning, discussion, and fellowship. Details under Events at discipleship.mdpc.org.

Officer Nominations

We need your help in identifying members whose gifts may be calling them into leadership at MDPC. As you pray, who comes to mind as a future Elder or Deacon? Submit nominations at nominate.mdpc.org.

H-Town Fellows at MDPC

Sep 2026-May 2027 | Wednesdays at 6pm

Are you a professional ready to seek God's purpose for your career? H-Town Fellows trains Christians to live the gospel coherently across vocation, community, and culture. For scholarship information, reach out to Joshua Smith at jsmith@mdpc.org. Apply at fellows.mdpc.org.

ECO Theology Conference

Mon-Wed, Sep 21-23 | MDPC

Join ECO pastors, elders, deacons, and covenant partners from across the nation at *Light in the Darkness: Faithful Responses to Heresy*. Presentations on contemporary expressions of ancient heresies, their impact today, and our faithful responses to them. For schedule and to register, visit theologyconf.mdpc.org.

Word and Worship 2026-2027

Mon-Wed, Sep 21-23 | MDPC

Word and Worship Bible study for '26-'27 will be the book of Daniel! We are incredibly excited to study this fascinating Old Testament book together. Many day and time options for groups. Learn more and register: wandw.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of June 14, 2026

2026 Annual Budget	\$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	6,087,057
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	8,641,671

MDPC Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Houston, Texas | mdpc.org | 713.782.1710

Births and Deaths

Miller Ted Sheets was born on June 8 to Colton and Holly Sheets.
Ethan McKnight passed away June 15.
Michael Peterman passed away January 1.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

READY FOR YOUR
NEXT STEP
at MDPC?

New Member Classes, led by associate pastors, elders, and staff, let you explore whether becoming a covenant partner is the right next step in your faith journey.

For upcoming dates, scan the QR code or visit newmembers.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		Clay Brown
*Songs of Praise	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King Holy Forever</i>	
Confession & Assurance		Clay Brown
Song of Response	<i>This Is My Father's World</i>	
Prayer		Beth Case
Worship Song	<i>Is He Worthy</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	R & R: Reformed and Reforming 2 Corinthians 13:13 and Matthew 3:16-17 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>King of Kings</i>	
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SENDING

*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
*Songs of Praise	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i> <i>Holy Forever Goodness of God</i>	
Confession & Assurance		Sally Henien
Introduction of New Covenant Partners		Rachel Poysky
Congregational Response & Prayer		
Worship Song	<i>Is He Worthy</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	R & R: Reformed and Reforming 2 Corinthians 13:13 and Matthew 3:16-17 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>King of Kings</i>	
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SENDING

*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
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Blended and Contemporary Worship Leaders
MDPC Worship Team: Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos, Asher Pudlo, Will Story, Angel Uribe
Meliza Gómez, Contemporary Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Preludes	<i>Concerto in G Minor</i>	G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
Choral Introit	<i>God Is Here</i>	arr. John Ferguson (1941-2025)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	Vs. 1, 3 #276 FAITHFULNESS
*Confession & Assurance of Pardon		Brett Hurst
*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed		
*Congregational Response	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	#579 GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>Our Faith in God Alone</i>	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)
Message	R & R: Reformed and Reforming 2 Corinthians 13:13 and Matthew 3:16-17 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	<i>Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise</i>	Vs. 1, 3 #263 ST. DENIO
Introduction of New Covenant Partners		Rachel Poysky
Congregational Response & Prayer		
Anthem of Response	<i>God Is Our Refuge and Strength</i>	Allen Pote (b. 1945)

SENDING

*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Sarabande</i>	Gordon Young (1919-1999)

Traditional Worship Leaders
MDPC Sanctuary Choir | Kathryn White, organist
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

Our pastors are here to help. They'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.