SERMON NOTES | Acts 2:42-47 & 4:32-37 Sun, Oct 4, 2026

Written by Rev. Beth L. Case

We continue in our study of Acts, as the early church is called, interrupted, and sent! Picking up from last week's sermon, early believers in Jesus have an experience of God, hear eyewitness accounts of Jesus' resurrection, and are called to a new expression of community!

1. When have you experienced a sense of awe and wonder – something so distinctive it assured you God was real or even present? How did this experience change you or motivate you to action?

2. Slowly read Acts 2:42-47 & 4:32-37. What word/phrase stands out?

3. Recall recent sermons and add Acts 2:41 & 4:31 to your reading today. Why might these contextual verses be important?

4. How did the news of Jesus resurrection change persons and community? What historical context does the phrase *one in heart and soul have*? How might this offer insight, or even awe?

5. The early Christians devoted themselves to several spiritual practices. What does devoted mean? How did the sermon emphasize the ongoing nature of these activities? How would the story be different if the flavor was occasional participation rather than consistent commitment?

6. Radical generosity is one of MDPC's three founding principles, and it is also a marker of this early Christian community. However, it is only one of several important practices of the early church. How might these various spiritual practices relate to the other practices?

7. Of the spiritual practices to which early believers were devoted, which comes easiest for you? Which proves most challenging? Inquire of the Holy Spirit: *Is there a spiritual practice to which that You are calling me to stretch into or recommit to with greater devotion?*

8. How might this narrative be pertinent on the day marked by worldwide church calendars as World Communion Sunday?

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Mark Your Calendars
Oct 11 Service Time Change: 9:30am
Join us next Sunday as we celebrate baptisms! The 8:30 and 11:15 services begin at their usual times; the contemporary service begins at 9:30.

Children's Choir
Sundays, 12:30pm | Choir Room
Children ages 5-11 are welcome to join Children's Choir! In a fun and encouraging Christian environment, children will learn music, grow in their faith, and share the joy of singing with others. Learn more: **childrenschoir.mdpc.org**

The Well
Thu, Oct 15 | 6:30pm | Chapel
Join us for a night of encouragement and testimony as women share how God stepped into their stories, redirected their paths, and revealed His perfect plan. Light refreshments at 6pm in the Parlor. Our speakers are Ruth Jacob, Lisa McChristian, and Ciria Yela. RSVP: **thewell.mdpc.org**

Marriage Retreat
Sat-Sun, Oct 17-18 | Moody Gardens Resort
Enjoy a fun and intentional weekend together focused on your married life! Led by Brett and Kellie Hurst. Register: **marriageretreat.mdpc.org**

Aging Roadmap
Thursdays, Oct 29, Nov 5 & 12 | 1-3pm | Rm 122
The key to aging well is planning your aging journey. This free, 3-week, 2 hours per week program will help you determine your next steps! Details and registration: **roadmap.mdpc.org**

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!

Thanksgiving Meal in a Bag
Collecting Oct 18-Nov 15
Our goal this year is 1,300 bags, and we need your help! Pick up a grocery bag on campus, fill it with the items on the list, and return it to MDPC. You'll be helping East Spring Branch and Fuente Food Pantries feed families this Thanksgiving! Learn more and find the list of items: **meal.mdpc.org**

Adults 55+ Fellowship
Dinners, lunches, fellowship events, and get-togethers over games and puzzles. All adults 55+ are welcome! Find details on all activities at **adults55plus.mdpc.org.**







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

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship — Bin Wang

*Songs of Praise — *Holy Forever* | *In Christ Alone*

Confession & Assurance — Miah Collins

Worship Song — *A Thousand Hallelujahs*

HEARING THE WORD

Message — **Interrupted & Sent: The Church Before the Building** — Beth Case
The Kind of Church Worth Building (Acts 2:42-47 & 4:32-37)

RESPONDING

Communion — Beth Case

Communion Meditations — *Nothing but the Blood of Jesus Medley*

SENDING

*Benediction — Beth Case

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship — Michael Middleton

*Songs of Praise — *Holy Forever* | *In Christ Alone*

Confession & Assurance — Christi Tullos

Worship Songs — *Washed* | *A Thousand Hallelujahs*

HEARING THE WORD

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RESPONDING

Communion — Beth Case

Communion Meditations — *Nothing but the Blood of Jesus Medley*

SENDING

*Benediction — Beth Case

Blended and Contemporary Worship Leaders
MDPC Worship Team: Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos,
Tim Hughes, Asher Pudlo, Will Story, Angel Uribe, Fernie Uribe
Meliza Gómez, Contemporary Worship Director | Michael Middleton, Generational Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Preludes — 참 아 름 다 워 라 | 아 하 나 님 의 은 혜 로 — Dae-Youn Kim (b. 1980)
(This Is My Father's World | I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace)

Call to Worship — Bin Wang

Choral Introit — *Let Us Break Bread Together* — arr. George Lynn (1915-1989)

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

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon — Bin Wang

*Affirmation of Faith from the United Church of Canada

*Congregational Response — *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* | Vs. 1, 2 — #120 | Toplady
from The Methodist Hymnal

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation — *Ubi Caritas (Where There Is Charity and Love)* — Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Message — **Interrupted & Sent: The Church Before the Building** — Beth Case
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RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response — *In Christ There Is No East or West* | Vs. 1, 2, 4 — #439 | St. Peter

Communion — Beth Case

Choral Anthem — *Behold, the Sacrifice of Love* — Luke Mayernik (b. 1981)

Organ Solo — *Gymnopédie No. 1* — Erik Satie (1866-1925)

Call to Respond — Bin Wang

SENDING

*Doxology — *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* — #592 | Old 100th

*Benediction — Beth Case

Postlude — *Lift High the Cross* — arr. John Behnke (b. 1953)

Traditional Worship Leaders
Su-Jin Cho, Gabrielle Tyler, Josh Thomas, Riley Vagis, Jason Amos, soloists
Sanctuary Choir | Kathryn White, organist/pianist
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

MORE WAYS TO CONNECT

Legacy Grandparenting Summit

Join other Christian grandparents at our neighbor Christ Presbyterian on **Fri, Oct 9** for a day of wisdom, hope, practical resources, and community. Discover tools and encouragement for building a spiritual legacy that reaches generations to come! **LGS.mdpc.org**

Stay Plugged In

Sign up to receive the weekly email with Sunday information and upcoming events, and download the MDPC app for past sermons, event registrations, and more, right in your pocket! Scan the QR code or visit **mymdpc.mdpc.org**



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**.

Financial Update as of Sep 27, 2026

2026 Annual Budget	$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	9,752,730
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	4,975,998

Births and Deaths

Buz Jochetz passed away September 29.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.