

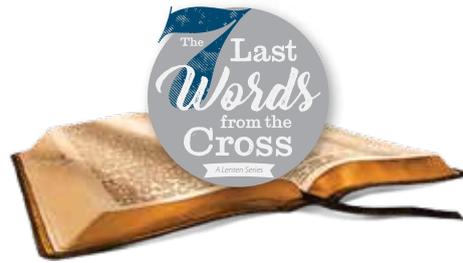
MDPC Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Latino Ministries Pastor
 Amy Delgado | Interim Outreach Director
 Ginny Glass | Communications & Media Director
 Meliza Gómez | Contemporary Music Director
 Alf Halvorson | Senior Pastor
 Charles Hausmann | Traditional Music Director
 Brett Hurst | Relationships Pastor
 Christyn Knoop | Young Adult Director
 Gena Kooken | Senior Leadership Ministry Coord.
 Laura Miller | Youth Director
 Rick Myers | Caring Ministries Pastor
 Rachel Poysky | Children's Pastor
 Becky Riggs | Business Administrator
 Dave Steane | Executive Pastor
 Kathryn White | Coordinating Music Director
 Karen Winship | Human Resources Director

Pastors Emeritus

Dave Peterson
 Gary Bowker

STUDY & SMALL GROUP SPOTLIGHT



Eat Pray Lent Study Groups

Savor Jesus' 7 *Last Words from the Cross* in worship and through the community of an Eat Pray Lent small group. Various groups would be delighted to welcome you, or start your own! This week's group spotlight is on:

Fifth Service Small Group:
 Tuesdays, 7:00 PM, Memorial Area

For Women:
 Sundays, 9:45 AM, Chapel Bride's Room

Details and registration: epl.mdpc.org

Outreach Ministry Partners 2017

This week, we ask that you pray for these partners in ministry that MDPC assists with your support:

Children's Activity Center reaches at-risk children with a mobile interactive worship program that brings the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Houston's most impoverished areas. Its volunteers begin to identify needs of the kids' families through weekly home visits.
sgnh.org

Cho-Yeh Christian Camp and Conference Center was established in Livingston, Texas, in 1947 as a place where Jesus Christ transforms lives through meaningful relationships and outdoor adventures.
cho-yeh.org

African Enterprise is a global partnership that believes in a bright future for Africa under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Its aim is to proclaim the Gospel to the residents of Africa's major cities. Through evangelism, reconciliation, leadership training, relief, and community development, AE offers help in community crises, such as AIDS, infant mortality, street children, and polluted water.
africanenterprise.org

Looking for a place to Serve?

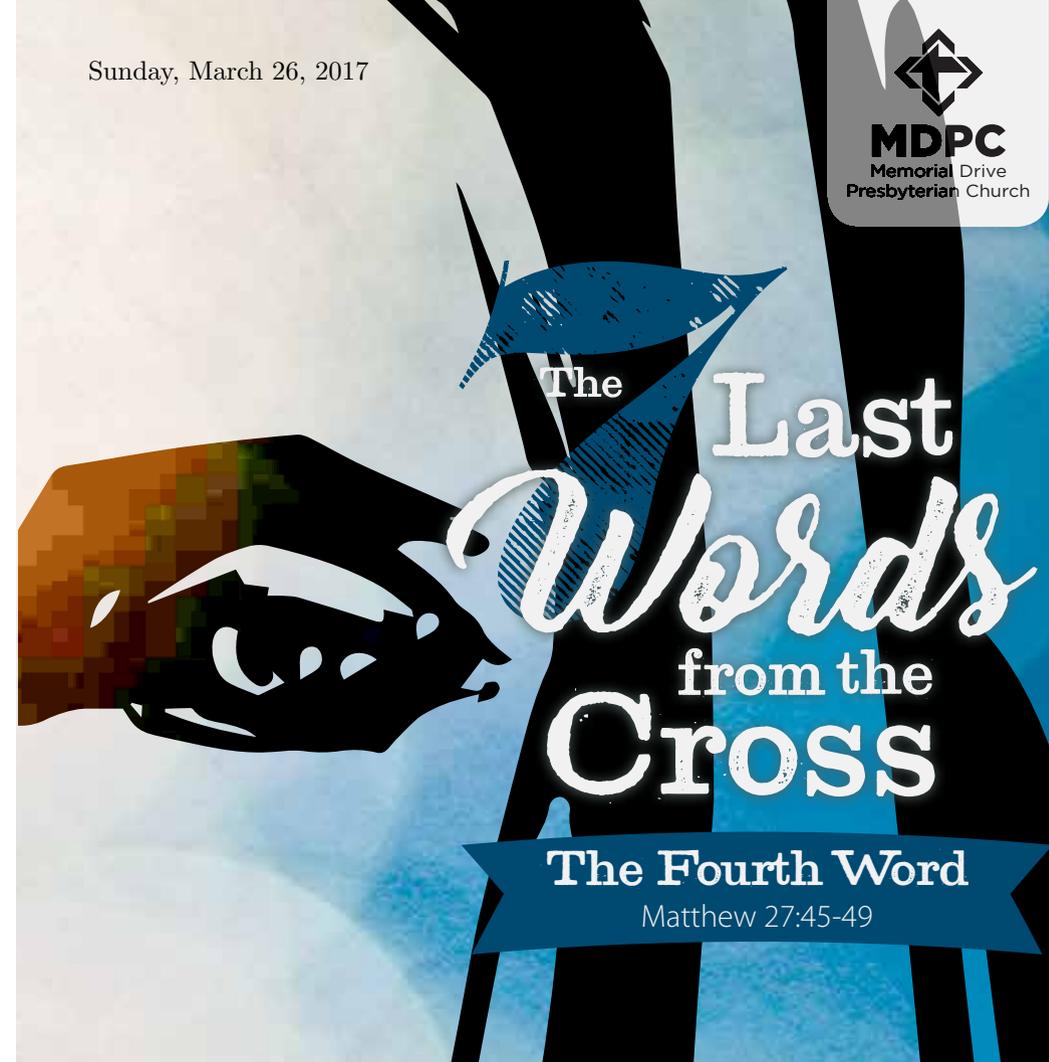
Children's Activity Center is a mobile ministry/worship service for children in the inner-city. On a Saturday, prepare and serve lunch for the 150-200 kids that come each week to the center's dynamic Saturday Children's Church meetings. Volunteers ages 12 and up are needed.

Contact Gilda Duncan at 281-222-7051.



Operating Income

2017 Annual Budget	\$ 11,400,000	100%
Actual Income to date (3/19/17)	\$ 1,882,442	17%
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 9,517,558	83%



The Last Words from the Cross

The Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45-49

Coming Up at MDPC

4th & 5th Grade Pizza Party

Games, friends, play, and pizza!
Friday, March 31 | 6:00-8:30 PM | The Galaxy
 Please RSVP: pizza.mdpc.org

All-Church Lunch Next Sunday

Back by popular demand: Breakfast menu!
 Served 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Concert Series: Brahms' Requiem

Presented by the MDPC Sanctuary Choir and orchestra, conducted by Dr. Charles Hausmann. Free admission; open to the public.
Sunday, April 9 | 6:00 PM | Sanctuary
concerts.mdpc.org

Easter Lily Time

Easter lilies may be purchased in memory or honor of loved ones. Stop by the Connection Center for a dedication envelope, or visit flowers.mdpc.org.
Deadline: Monday, April 10 | \$9/dedication

Stroke Scan

Get three vascular screenings to help prevent stroke, aneurysm, and related health conditions.
Thursday, April 13 | Summit Room | \$135
A Stroke Scan rep will be here the next two Sunday mornings to help you register and answer questions. For details and appointments: strokescan.mdpc.org

Journey to the Cross for Families

Walk with us through Holy Week on a guided tour of the stations of the cross.
Good Friday, April 14 | Tours run 9:30-11:30 AM
 Register to receive a tour time: journey.mdpc.org

Venturers' presents: Houston Storms

Guest speaker Dr. Neil Frank, has been instrumental in advancing both the scientific and informational aspects of hurricane forecasting.
Monday, April 10 | 6:00 PM | Westchase Hilton
 RSVP to Chuck & Linnie Edwards: 713-785-7115

Theology On Tap: What's the Difference?

In April, we'll explore denominational and theological distinctions between us. Open to young adults, 20s-30s. Free craft beer & food!
Tuesday, April 11 | 7:00-9:00 PM | Black Lab Pub

Prime Timers' presents: Worried About Your Memory? It May Not Be Dementia

Sally Davis, Health Services Director at The Amazing Place, returns to speak about memory loss and how to distinguish dementia from what's normal. Pick up a flier for reservation details.
Tuesday, April 18 | Fellowship Hall | 10:30-Noon

Special Guest Speaker:

Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben
Thursday, April 27 | 7:00 PM



Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben currently serves as Chief of Chaplains of the Navy, the first woman to hold that position. She has masters and doctorate degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a masters degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

kibben.mdpc.org

MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Rick Myers

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

SONGS OF RESPONSE

OFFERTORY

MESSAGE The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The Fourth Word

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

9:45 AM SERVICE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Kyle Collins

SONGS OF RESPONSE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tara Reynolds

OFFERTORY

MESSAGE The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The Fourth Word

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musicians in these services: Worship Leaders, Coppelia Acevedo and Michael Middleton • Bass, Daniel Amaya • Guitar, Arthur Ceker • Keys, Daniel Martinez • Drums, Asher Pudlo

11:15 AM SERVICE

PPRELUDE

Sonata No. 3

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rick Myers

CHORAL INTROIT

O Holy Jesus

Donald McCullough (b. 1962)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#466; Vs. 1, 2, 3, 4 | AZMON

*CONFESSION, ASSURANCE, & AFFIRMATION

Amy Delgado

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

In the Cross of Christ, I Glory

#84; Vs. 1, 2 | RATHBUN

ANTHEM

O Vos Omnes (O Ye People)

Pablo Casals (1876-1973)

OFFERTORY

Forsaken

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

MESSAGE

The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The Fourth Word

Alf Halvorson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

In the Cross of Christ, I Glory

#84; Vs. 3, 4 | RATHBUN

POSTLUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Darwin Wolford (b. 1936)

Musicians in this service: Conductor, Charles Hausmann • Organ/piano, Kathryn White

MORE ON MDPC SUNDAY MORNINGS

11:00 AM FIFTH SERVICE: Join folks in the Amphitheater for energetic worship, dynamic teaching from a diverse line-up of guest speakers, casual community, and breakfast tacos. Visit fifthservice.mdpc.org for more.

11:15 AM SPANISH SERVICE: MDPC's Fuente Hispanic Ministries worships in the Chapel. For more information on Spanish and bilingual community events and programs, visit fuente.mdpc.org.

VISITORS: If you are visiting MDPC today, we are delighted that you have come to worship with us! Allow us to welcome you personally at the Connection Center located in the Sanctuary Lobby.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP? For inquiries on how to become a member of MDPC, contact Diann Turet at dturet@mdpc.org and join one of our New Member Classes that run throughout the year.



2017 SURVIVOR'S FAITH
ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

Lazy W Ranch
34523 Joseph Road
Hempstead, TX 77445

Live music, rodeo, fishing, poker, ranch grub, Cowboy Church, and grizzly fellowship!

Register (\$120): mensretreat.mdpc.org

Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2



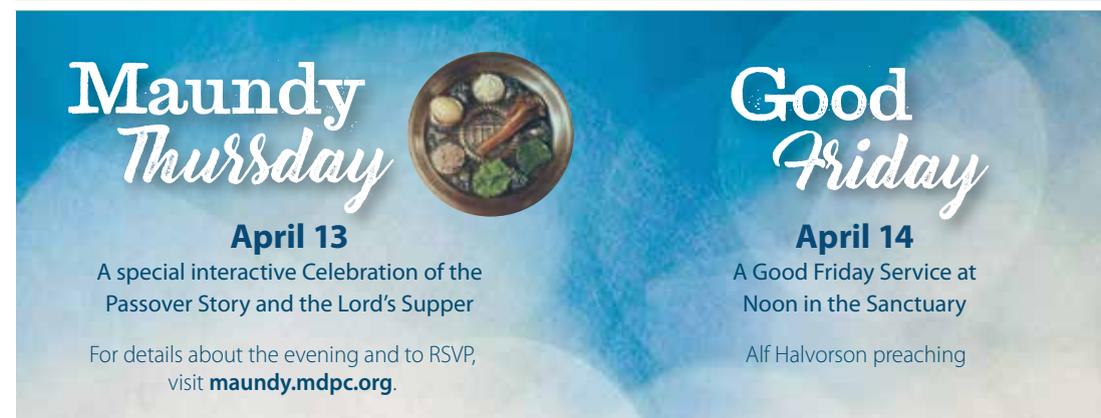
THE SPOKEN WORD
HEBREWS 4:12

Celebrate Holy Week by participating in a continuous cover-to-cover reading of the Bible. Sign up for one or more 15-minute spots:

spokenword.mdpc.org

Reading takes place **April 10-13** in the MDPC Chapel.

Come to read. Come to listen.



Maundy Thursday
April 13
A special interactive Celebration of the Passover Story and the Lord's Supper
For details about the evening and to RSVP, visit maundy.mdpc.org.

Good Friday
April 14
A Good Friday Service at Noon in the Sanctuary
Alf Halvorson preaching



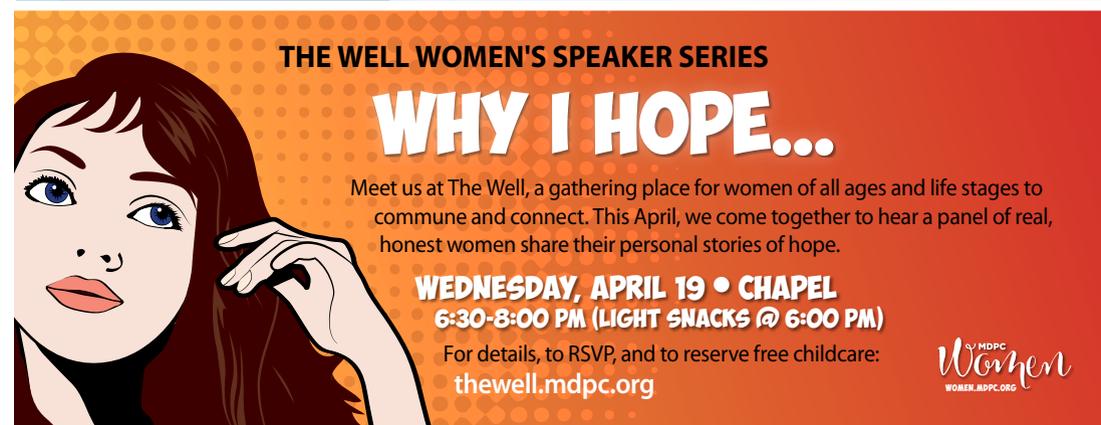
The Last Words from the Cross
Sermon Series

Easter Sunday
April 16

We'll celebrate Easter morning in five unique services:

- 7:00 AM **Sunrise:** Acoustic praise music
- 8:15 AM **Blended:** A mix of traditional and contemporary music
- 9:45 AM **Contemporary:** A family-friendly service
- 11:15 AM **Traditional:** Brass, choir-led hymns, and Hallelujah Chorus
- 11:15 AM **Spanish:** Spanish-language, led by Mauricio Chacón

For everything Easter, visit lent.mdpc.org.



THE WELL WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

WHY I HOPE...

Meet us at The Well, a gathering place for women of all ages and life stages to commune and connect. This April, we come together to hear a panel of real, honest women share their personal stories of hope.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 • CHAPEL
6:30-8:00 PM (LIGHT SNACKS @ 6:00 PM)

For details, to RSVP, and to reserve free childcare: thewell.mdpc.org

MDPC Women
WOMEN.MDPC.ORG



The **Last Words**
from the **Cross**
Matthew 27:45-49

The Fourth Word: Abandoned (ə'band(ə)nd/) adj.

1. having been deserted or cast off
2. left without needed protection or care

Spend a few minutes reflecting on this word before reading further. Use the back of this sheet to jot some thoughts.

After college graduation, I first (really) moved away from home. It was 800 miles this time, not quite the afternoon drive like from the 'ole college dorm. This wasn't that big of a deal to me. I seldom returned home except for the holidays, and, like a typical young adult, I was all about my independence. A big difference this time, however, was that I didn't know anyone at all in the place I was headed.

It's easy to leave home when you can take enough of it with you. I had a girlfriend of three years at the time, and Skype is just as awkward from 90 miles away as it is from 800 miles. There were plenty of opportunities for continuing the running, hiking, fishing, soccer, and other activities I loved in this new city. And my college friends and I could still record music together online, sending and dubbing over tracks to one another. It seemed as if I wasn't really going anywhere, my address was just changing.

My second day of work they told me to pack a bag, book a hotel, and drive three hours out to the field where I'd live from Sunday night through Friday night for the next six months. So much for team sports or recording music, but I had other things to fall back on, right? Well, within a month or so, that three-year relationship ended (not by my choice), and a sprained ankle and injured knee put even running out of the picture for at least several months...

Suddenly, I wasn't at home anymore. I was alone. My spirit was broken. I had been rejected, and I felt empty inside.

This feeling of isolation played a big part in my decision to seek God and start attending church again – something I had only done at my parents' request, and sparingly so since beginning college. It was there that I learned what God's grace truly meant to me, found a community of believers to support my growth in Christ, and began a new life with Christ as the foundation.

We have all gone through phases when we have felt rejected or isolated to some degree. Christ experienced the extreme of this on the Cross the moment when He took on the sin of the world and was therefore removed from God's presence. Despite the darkness, the pain, the rejection, and the suffering, God had a bigger plan that rose above it all: the redemption of the entire world. When the foundation of our life is built on Christ, we know that God can ultimately use difficult times for His glory, and we can trust that He will never abandon or forsake us as Jesus has already paid the price for our sin.

Begin by reading aloud the opening reflection followed by the Scripture passage (Matthew 27:45-49).

1. What did this passage stir up for you this week? Any questions, insights, convictions?
2. Try to pronounce "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani." What is the significance of Jesus crying this out on the cross?
3. We have all experienced rejection or isolation to some degree in our lives. Describe a time when you have felt abandoned that you feel comfortable sharing with the group. Did you or anyone around you ultimately learn or gain anything positive from this experience, despite how it felt at the time? (Hint: read James 1:2-4 for insights into ways God uses all things, including hardship, for our good).
4. Read Psalm 69:21, John 19:29-30 and Psalm 22:1. How do these passages relate to this week's scripture, and what is the significance?
5. What is your greatest takeaway this week? What has the Holy Spirit stirred up in you as a response to this lesson? How might you now look at life differently? Does this knowledge spark a deeper gratitude for Christ? How might this change your Christian walk? In what particular ways could the other members of the group encourage you, challenge you, and pray for you?

