

Sunday, December 3, 2017



CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 11:1-2; Jeremiah 10:7; Luke 1:78-79; Revelation 3:7

8:30 AM BLENDED • 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

CCLI # 182374

WELCOME		Dave Steane (8:30), Worship Team (9:45)
CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH		Aldrich Family (8:30), Limbacher Family (9:45)
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Amy Delgado (8:30), Sarah Stone (9:45)
SONG OF RESPONSE		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Alf Halvorson
†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER		
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Joe Gavito, guitar • Craig Gysler, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker bass

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
WELCOME		Dave Steane
CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH		Williams Family
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	#49; Vs. 1, 2, 4 IRBY
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	Vs. 1, 4, 5 VENT EMMANUEL
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Rachel Poysky
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20		
OFFERTORY	<i>Arise, Your Light Has Come</i>	David Danner (1951-1993)
MESSAGE	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Alf Halvorson
†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER		
COMMUNION MEDITATION	<i>His Voice as the Sound</i>	Shaw/Parker
HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	Vs. 6, 7 VENT EMMANUEL
POSTLUDE	<i>Fantasy on 'Greensleeves'</i>	Brian Henkelmann (b. 1965)

Musicians in this service: Mark Bailey and Charles Hausmann, conductors • Kathryn White, organ • Houston Christian High School Chamber Choir: Quint Adamo, Annalis Chaves, Cameron Dasher, Nick Fakhriaravari, Bronwyn Fogarty, Adam Krall, Hadley Krummel, Stephanie Leary, Mark McMillan, Everett Metz, Andre Napier, Caroline Pearce, Jonathan Wells, Samuel Whitaker, Tauriel Zhang

* Please stand if able.

† Communion at MDPC is shared by intinction. As directed by ushers, come forward to the communion station for the section where you are seated. Dip the bread in the cup and eat, before returning to your seat. All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, so we will celebrate in the morning, and again in the evening with a new message:

10:00 AM Blended Worship
4:00 PM Family | 5:30, 7:00, & 8:30 PM Candlelight
Details: christmaseve.mdpc.org



Pastor Rick Myers Retirement Lunch

Today we'll celebrate our beloved 12-year Caring Ministries Pastor with a look back at his ministry at MDPC. All-Church Lunch will be served at its usual time. All are welcome to lunch and/or the program.

**Today in Fellowship Hall | Lunch: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Myers Program: 12:45-1:30 PM**

Program is free; lunch is \$10. Details: myers.mdpc.org

Concert Series: Choral Christmas Concert

How often do you get to sing Christmas carols with a full orchestra? Now is your chance! Additionally, the Sanctuary Choir will perform *Messa di Gloria* by Giacomo Puccini, and *The Many Moods of Christmas* by Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett.

**Sunday, Dec. 17 | 6:00 PM | Free admission
concerts.mdpc.org**

Mission Market: Give a Gift. Change a Life.

When you purchase Mission Market Christmas cards, 100% of the money you give is sent to the ministry partner of your choice. These partners live out Christ's mission to help the hungry, homeless, and voice-less.

**Sundays through Dec. 17 | Sanctuary Lobby
mission-market.mdpc.org**

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

In Houston, one in four preschool children goes to bed hungry - you can make sure there is one less empty tummy! Just bring four loaves of bread per sandwich-maker and come make sandwiches for Kids' Meals. That's all it takes to make a difference.

**Wednesday, Dec. 13 | 4:30 PM | Fellowship Hall
Contact Julie with questions: hempeljulie@gmail.com**

Confirmation: Deadline for Early Bird Cost

Confirmation is for students currently in the 8th grade or above. It'll be a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.

**Kick-off: Sunday Evening, January 7
Class Meetings: Sundays, January 14-March 4
11:00 AM-12:15 PM | \$125 if you register by today!**

*Registration & details: confirmation.mdpc.org
Contact Laura with questions: lmiller@mdpc.org*

Family Christmas Festival: Angels

The evening starts with caroling in the Chapel, then dinner will be offered along with crafts, a hot chocolate bar, a service project, and more. All activities are free; dinner is affordably priced (info at the link below). Invite your neighbors - the entire family is welcome!

**Today! 4:15-7:00 PM
angels.mdpc.org**

Merry & Bright Music & Art Show

Come enjoy an art show and music concert in celebration of the Christmas season. The evening will feature art work from students of the REACH art class, a special performance art piece, and music led by Meliza Gómez, MDPC's contemporary worship leader.

**Wednesday, Dec. 6 | Free Event
Art Viewing: 6:30 PM, East Hallway by Chapel
Concert: 7:00 PM, Chapel | Reception: 8:00 PM**

MDPC Toy Train Is Here

MDPC's Mobile Unit works year-round to bring low-income neighborhoods new or lightly used goods for free or very low cost. At Christmastime, it distributes toys to kids on its routes. Please consider bringing new, unwrapped toys to drop off in the Toy Train. Collecting toys in the east hallway through Dec. 19

Women's Christmas Coffee

Join MDPC women for a fun kick-off to the Christmas season! Invite your friends and come enjoy the festivities, coffee, wassail, and treats at this holiday tradition.

**Thursday, Dec. 7 | 9:30-11:00 AM | Parlor
coffee.mdpc.org**

Christmas Greenery on Sale Today

Boy Scouts are here with fresh wreaths and garlands.
8:30-11:30 AM | Sanctuary Breezeway

B90: Read the Bible

Read 12 pages a day starting January 1, and meet once a week for support and encouragement. This could be the best new year's resolution you'll ever make.

**Interest Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 17 | 11:15 AM | MC 218
Details: b90.mdpc.org**

Pray With Us: MDPC Ministry Partners

This week, please pray for these partners MDPC assists with your support:

Fuller Theological Seminary Houston was founded to bring Fuller's rich programs to Texas. It provides scholarships to allow future leaders in the Body of Christ to complete their seminary education without the burden of significant debt.
fuller.edu/campuses-online/texas.aspx

United Campus Ministry invites students, faculty, and staff at colleges throughout Houston into a personal relationship with Christ. Bible studies, fellowship, and mission trips prepare students to be leaders in the faith communities to which God calls them.
ucmhouston.com

New Life With Education is a Christ-centered school for disabled students through the sixth grade, who struggle to gain an education in the overcrowded Guatemalan school system. MDPC member Judy Kerschner designed this school for students who otherwise might be forgotten.
newlifeguatemala.com

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

Chancel poinsettias may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. Your dedication will be inserted in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

\$8/dedication | Order deadline: Dec. 15

For details and to order, visit flowers.mdpc.org. Upon completion of your online order, you will be required to make full payment by eCheck, credit card, or debit card.

The White Rose is in memory of

Ken Gruber, who passed away November 17, 2017.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 7,627,051
Actual Income to Date (11/26/17)	\$ 7,542,500
Current Income Deficit	\$ 84,551
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 3,857,500
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 758,472



CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Is. 7:14, 9:6, 11:1-2; Jer. 10:7; Lk 1:78-79; Rev. 3:7

As I shared last week in reference to the hymn, “Now Thank We All Our God,” for the next five weeks we will be looking at hymns/songs/Christmas Carols that appear on “Our Christmas Playlist.” They often have amazing backstories which add depth to the words we sing or pray; and these carefully chosen phrases attempt to represent some key aspect of Scripture about Jesus, our Savior, whose birth-celebration we await this Advent. Advent provides us the time to prepare room for Jesus in our busy lives and over-full hearts.

The seven verses of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” are printed on the back of this page. Each verse lifts up one of the seven great messianic, prophetic titles of the Savior: Wisdom, Lord of Might, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Dayspring, Desire of Nations, and Emmanuel (Immanuel). What do these names mean? Where are they found in Scripture?

1. Read Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 11:1-2; Jeremiah 10:7; Luke 1:78-79; and Revelation 3:7. Can you find each of the seven references? Note: Use Isaiah 9:6 to cover two attributes.
2. Take a few minutes to “mine the meaning” of each phrase. Use not just your biblical knowledge but also your knowledge of being a human being to attempt to name the longing which each title satisfies. Put another way: What answer is given in each name for the questions we have about our broken world and broken lives?
3. I talked in my sermon about “O Antiphons” and how the monks in the monastery would sing their need, their problem, their trouble, their lack, their hunger; then the abbot would sing back the chorus of God’s arrival, God’s help, Christ’s presence, Scripture’s answer in Jesus. It was “call and response.” Why do we need to name our needs and hear from another human being the promises of God in Scripture? Why can’t we just get along on our own? Or do all that ourselves?
4. How does worship each week give us this same “call and response” opportunity? Name some of the parts of our worship service and identify who is speaking. Each week in worship, we are not just spectators, but *participants* in a dialogue, a conversation, a volleyball match where the ball is hit back and forth over the net.
5. Based on what is going on in your life right now (and in our world right now), which Title of Christ, which Attribute of the Savior, do you/we need most right now? End your time offering prayer together for the Savior to meet us at our points of need.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.