



Sunday, June 10, 2018

WRESTLING WITH SCRIPTURE

The Lord Hardened Pharaoh's Heart | Exodus 9:8-12



8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME		Beth Case
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Dan Aikins
SONG OF PREPARATION		
MESSAGE	The Lord Hardened Pharaoh's Heart	Alf Halvorson

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WELCOME		
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Tara Reynolds
SONG OF RESPONSE		
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE		
MESSAGE	The Lord Hardened Pharaoh's Heart	Alf Halvorson

Musicians in these services: Gisele Duque and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders • Daniel Amaya, bass • George Heathco, guitar • Tim Hughes, violin • Daniel Martinez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDES	<i>Carillon</i> <i>Canticle (Be Thou My Vision)</i>	Bizet/D. Wagner D. Wagner
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Beth Case
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>O God, Beyond All Praising</i>	Holst (1874-1934)/Proulx
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>God, You Spin the Whirling Planets</i>	#285; Vs. 1, 2, 3 AUSTRIAN HYMN
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Amy Delgado
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FROM THE APOSTLES CREED		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>This Is My Father's World</i>	#293; Vs. 1, 2 TERRA BEATA
ANTHEM	<i>What Wondrous Love Is This</i>	arr. D. Wagner
OFFERTORY	<i>Nearer, My God to Thee</i>	arr. Dan Forrest (b.1978)
MESSAGE	The Lord Hardened Pharaoh's Heart	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i>	#298; Vs. 1, 2 IN BABILONE
POSTLUDE	<i>Prelude in A Major</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Musicians in this service: Gulf Coast Campanile; Emily Borling, director • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organ



Brand-New! Pastor Pods

MDPC staff teachers, seminarians, and pastors paired up for a podcast series on the *Wrestling with Scripture* summer series, tackling some of the toughest texts of the Bible!

All five episodes are available now:
pastorpods.mdpc.org





June Is MAM Month!

Our ministry partner **Memorial Assistance Ministries** offers items to help families stretch their budgets. Please consider donating needed items. Grab one of the “shopping list” fliers to take on your next grocery trip, then drop donations in the shopping carts around campus.

Thank you for helping out neighborhood families!



Theology On Tap: END TIMES

Will everything burn in a fiery apocalypse? Who is the antichrist? How do we know who's right and who's wrong about “the end”? Hear varying views on Eschatology followed by Q&A with a scholar/pastor panel.

Tuesday, June 12 • 7:00-9:00 PM
Kindred, Montrose • 2515 Waugh, 77006

Open to Young Adults (20s & 30s)
Free craft beer & food (suggested donation: \$5)

facebook.com/theologyontaphouston

Summer Celebration Is July 9-13

We'd love donations of old electronics and small appliances like toasters, vacuums, mixers, radios (no glass or screens, please), as well as old adult-size T-shirts (preferably in bright colors for use in weaving projects).

Teen and adult volunteers are needed, too!

Sign up to volunteer: sc.mdpc.org

The Outreach Foundation Trip to Cuba

September 6-14, 2018 (approx.)

MDPC Global Partner, the Outreach Foundation, is hosting a trip to Cuba to visit Matanzas' Evangelical Theological Seminary and meet with church leaders and congregations in Havana and Santa Clara. See God at work through the church in Cuba, absorb the history and culture that shape the ministry context, and learn how changes in relations between our nations affect them. Space is limited and on a first-come basis.

Registration deadline is Monday, June 25.

Contact Kelsi McCormack: kmccormack@mdpc.org

Family Fun Night!

Start the evening by making sandwiches for Kids' Meals, grab dinner, and stay for a family-friendly flick.

Wednesday, June 13 | Fellowship Hall

4:30-6:00 PM Kids' Meals Service Project

5:00-6:30 PM Wednesday Night Dinner available

6:00 PM Movie in Amphitheater

Details: popcorn.mdpc.org

Soccer Camp & VBS

Girls and boys age 7 to 11 are invited to the annual Soccer Camp Vacation Bible School, hosted by MDPC's Fuente Hispanic Ministries.

June 18-22 | 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Girls and Boys age 7-12 | \$5 per child

Registration: soccercamp.mdpc.org

Preschool Playground Playdate

Snow cones and fun provided! Play in the sun and meet the Children's Ministries summer interns. Preschoolers only; parent must be present.

Wednesday, June 20 | 2:30-3:30 PM

RSVP to Mayra Escamilla: mescamilla@mdpc.org

Summer Movie Series

Prime Timers proudly hosts another summer film series! Beat the heat while enjoying popcorn and acclaimed films. Everyone is welcome, free of charge.

Select Wednesdays | 3:00 PM | Amphitheater

June 20: Ferdinand (PG; animated; closed caption)

Save the Dates: July 25, August 1

*Visit pluggedin.com to review movie content.

Today's Chancel Flowers are given

- by Nancy Kimmey, in loving memory of her daughter, Dana Lynn Dowler.
- by Bob and Melinda Byrd, in honor of the marriage of Kristen Byrd and Christopher Sheffey.

Please Pray for MDPC Ministry Partners

This week, join us in lifting in prayer these MDPC partners in ministry:

Hope and Healing Center & Institute is an outreach ministry of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, a comprehensive mental health resource offering education and awareness programs. It seeks to build and restore lives by providing free mental health support and coaching to clients, and continuing education for clergy and medical professionals. hopeandhealingcenter.org

Hope for Youth builds and maintains long-term Christian mentoring relationships with at-risk urban youth, primarily those whose families are staying at Star of Hope shelter. It organizes weekend outreach activities and ongoing development programs. A popular event is Friday Night Live, which includes games, dinner, and a pastor-led Gospel lesson. hopeforyouth.org

Light of Hope Ministry, through building village schools, literacy programs, translating the Bible, and the vision of a teaching hospital, is bringing the Good News of God's love to Muslim people groups of Ethiopia, beginning with the Arssi Oromo people both in Ethiopia and North America. frontierfellowship.com

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2018 Operating Budget	\$ 11,600,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 3,846,674
Actual Income to Date (6/3/18)	\$ 4,010,161
Current Income Surplus	\$ 163,488
Needed to Meet 2018 Budget	\$ 7,589,839



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

WRESTLING WITH SCRIPTURE

The Lord Hardened Pharaoh's Heart

Exodus 9:8-12 | Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the second in our summer series on the tough texts of the Bible. And it is a doozie. What does it mean that God “hardened Pharaoh’s heart”?

1. Familiarize yourself briefly with Exodus chapters 1-8. Do a flyover to remember why the Israelites were in captivity, the story of Moses, and then the calling of Moses by God to free the people in slavery. Also remember that the plagues are incentives by God to get Pharaoh to do the right thing. Then read Exodus 9:8-12. How does verse 12 hit you? What might it mean, standing alone like it does here?
2. I talked about Scripture interpreting Scripture and used as a case study Paul saying in 1 Corinthians 14:34, “Women should keep silent in church.” But then I showed the preponderance of evidence in the rest of Scripture that advocates for equality of women and men in leadership. That is why we ordain women into leadership positions at MDPC. What happens if we do the same thing with Exodus 9:12? In Exodus chapters 1-15, the theme of hardening hearts comes up 20 times: 10 times, Pharaoh hardens his own heart; 10 times God hardens. So there is a debate here between human freedom and God’s power and plan. Read Exodus 8:15, 8:32, 9:34-35, and 10:16. What does this information do to fill in the picture of “the Lord hardening Pharaoh’s heart” in 9:12? What might it suggest?
3. I offered one other reason the phrase, “The Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart” might have been used. It related to Pharaoh thinking he was God, and that this is really a showdown of who is the true Lord. Does that ring true? Are there other thoughts you have that might clarify or illuminate this passage? Who wins the contest?
4. As humans, because of sin, we all have hardening of the arteries spiritually, to some extent. Where are you not soft toward God? Where have you been closed to some command or action? Where might you need to be more open to hearing God’s advice or call? Share gently and confidentially with each other in the group. Pray for each other. Don’t wait. Act today.

