

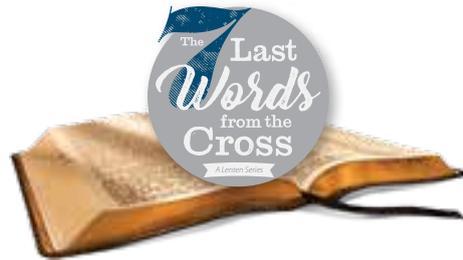
MDPC Coordinating Team

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 Kookon | 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:

Women, 20s & 30s: Tuesdays, 6:30 PM, The Heights
All Women: Thursdays, 11:30 AM, Parlor
Marrieds, 20s & 30s: Sundays, 11:15 AM, MC 122

Details and registration: epl.mdpc.org

The White Rose is in memory of:

- Iris Tyndall, who passed away February 25, 2017.
- Gloria Russell, who passed away February 28, 2017.
- Anita McCollum, who passed away March 5, 2017.
- William Sharkey, who passed away March 5, 2017.

Outreach Ministry Partners 2017

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

Center for Student Missions
 provides visiting groups urban mission and service experiences that transform lives, advance the church, and honor Jesus Christ.
csm.org

Casa El Buen Samaritano shares the love of Jesus Christ while providing whole-person (body, soul, and spirit) healthcare to low-income and uninsured Houstonians. Volunteer nurses and doctors treat patients for a number of general health issues, including women's health, diabetes, and hypertension.
casaelbuen.org

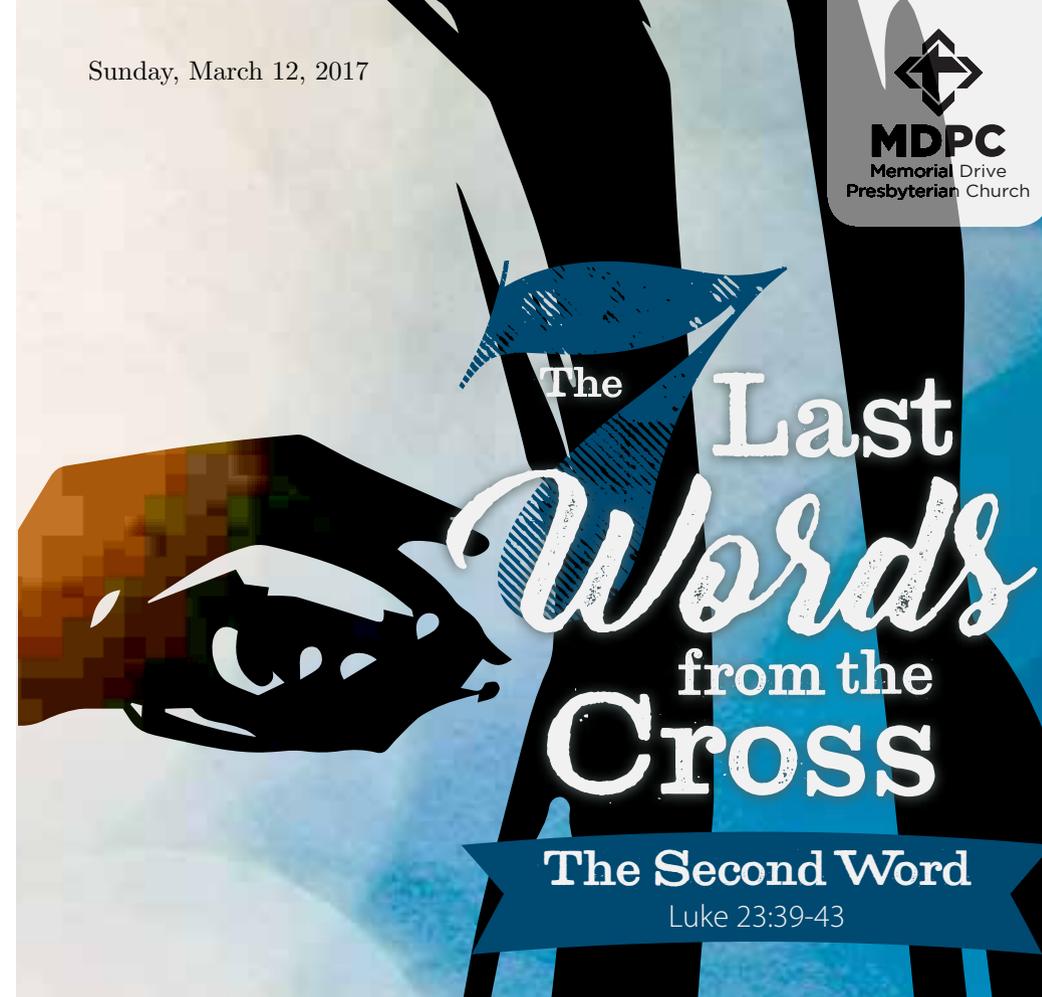
An MDPC mission field partner in central Asia focuses on reaching those who have not yet heard about or encountered Jesus Christ. The partner and their family demonstrate God's love and power within the community and work with local believers on training and modeling church planting. They leverage their creation of a local business to build community and spread the love of Jesus.

Operating Income

2017 Annual Budget	\$ 11,348,600	100%
Actual Income to Date (March 5, 2017)	\$ 1,614,798	14%
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 9,733,802	86%

MDPC Dollar-for-Dollar in Action

Your generosity enables our partner The Amazing Place, ministering to adults with mild to moderate memory loss. In a recent bridge game, Frank chided his longtime friend and now fellow Amazing Place client, Sidney, "You better keep your eyes on the cards, because you won't know them by memory!" >



The Last Words from the Cross

The Second Word

Luke 23:39-43

Coming Up at MDPC

Discover MDPC with Alf

Want to know more about MDPC? Interested in membership? Attend an Informational Meeting to find out more about who we are and how we operate, both in our community and around the world.
March 26 | 10:45-11:15 AM | Gathering Room
membership.mdpc.org

New Member Classes

MDPC's New Member Class series is taught by associate pastors and elders and includes a Saturday service project at one of our local mission partners.
Sundays, April 2-May 14 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM
 Register with Diann Turet: dturet@mdpc.org, 713-490-9553

The Spoken Word: April 10-13, 2017

Experience God's Word in a special way during Holy Week and prepare your heart for the miracle of Easter. Come to read or come to listen, strengthen your faith, and enjoy the fellowship experience.
Pastor Alf kicks off reading at 6:00 AM Monday; we conclude on Maundy Thursday by 4:00 PM.
 Registration opens March 20 at spokenword.mdpc.org. Sign up to read for a 15-minute increment.

Prime Timers presents Martha Moore

Martha speaks on *The Power of the Spoken Word*, sharing Jesus' life-giving words to prepare Prime Timers for the joy of Easter.
Tuesday, March 21 | Fellowship Hall
Free Program at 10:30 AM, Lunch (\$9.50) at Noon
 Everyone is welcome to the free program. For lunch, checks must be received at the front office by March 15.

Register Now for REACH Summer Camps!

Kids camps include art, basketball, CR8, Camp Barbie & Fashion Design, cheer, Coder Kids, cooking, Creative Expressions, dance, drama, gymnastics, Hot Wheels/Play-Doh, Idea Lab & Mad Science camps, LEGOs, piano, soccer, survival tactics, voice, and woodworking. Adults can sign up for strength training, yoga, voice, and piano.
 For a complete list or to register, visit reach.mdpc.org or call the MDPC REACH office at 713-490-9564.

Librarian Needed

Music Ministry is looking for a volunteer who has good organizational skills to organize the choir's music library. No musical experience is necessary.
 Contact Tracy Stidam: tstidam@mdpc.org, 713-490-0946

Stroke Scan

Three vascular screenings for \$135. Complete package includes color flow doppler/stroke, abdominal aorta aneurysm, and ankle brachial index. Results are interpreted by a board certified radiologist and mailed in 3-4 weeks. Severe results are expedited.
Thursday, April 13 | Summit Room
A Stroke Scan rep will be here on Sundays, April 3 and 10 to help you register and answer questions.
 Please schedule an appointment time: 281-646-7766

4th & 5th Grade Pizza Party

Bring your friends and come eat pizza and play games at a pizza party!
Friday, March 31 | 6:00-8:30 PM | The Galaxy
 Please RSVP: pizza.mdpc.org



MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

*SONGS OF PRAISE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

SONG OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE *The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The Second Word*

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dave Steane

Rick Myers

Dave Steane

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

SONG OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE *The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The Second Word*

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Brett Hurst

Dave Steane

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

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDES

Adagio in A Minor
My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
William Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT

God So Loved the World

John Stainer (1840-1901)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

#482; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | LOBE DEN HERREN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Romans 8

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Gloria Patri

Hymn #579

ANTHEM

Father, Forgive Us

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

OFFERTORY

Verily, Thou Shalt Be with Me in Paradise

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

MESSAGE

The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The Second Word

Dave Steane

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

What Wondrous Love Is This

#85; Vs. 1, 2 | WONDROUS LOVE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Festive Trumpet Tune

Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)

Musicians in this service: Nathan Costello, Prelude soloist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Avery Rabon and Ivan Ley, Offertory soloists; Kathryn White, organ/piano

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, and casual community. 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.

THE WELL WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

WHY I HOPE...

Save the Date!

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

Join a group from MDPC to pray over concerns for our families and ourselves, our city, nation, and world - all while taking in a lovely nature walk.

Tuesdays through April 11
6:45-7:00 AM

Meet at the trail entrance at Yorkchester and Indian Creek, in the Wilchester neighborhood.

Contact prayer leader **Robin Sturgis** with questions at **713-398-4574** or robinsturgis@sbcglobal.net.

Lenten
Prayer
Walking
At Terry Hershey Park

Walking the Mourner's Path™

TRANSFORMING GRIEF INTO JOYFUL LIVING

This Christ-centered eight-week grief program is limited to ten participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Two trained facilitators will guide the group.

Wednesdays, March 22-May 17 | 3:30-5:00 PM
Chapel Bride's Room (116) | Cost: \$30 (Scholarships available)

Register online at grief.mdpc.org or with Beverly Fluke of Caring Ministries (bfluke@mdpc.org, 713-490-9542).

First Communion Retreat

This is a special event for 1st-5th grade children and their parents. The retreat is designed to prepare children for their First Communion, giving them a clear understanding of the important sacrament. **The children who are participating will take their First Communion on Sunday, May 7.**

Sunday, March 26
12:30-3:30 PM | The Galaxy

Register: communion.mdpc.org



The Last
Words
from the
Cross

Maundy Thursday

A Celebration of the Passover Story and
the Lord's Supper

For details about the evening and to RSVP, visit maundy.mdpc.org.





The Last Words from the Cross

Luke 23:39-43

The Second Word: Repent (rə'pent/) verb

1. to feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin.
 2. to turn away from sin and towards God in a total, radical way.
- Spend a few minutes reflecting on this word before reading further. Use the back of this sheet to jot some thoughts.*

The Bible is full of interesting characters and layers of insight. Did you know you can read the entire Bible through the lens of leadership principles? You'd be astonished at all that God has to say on the subject, and how He desires to bless you as you put His ways into action. Then, you could turn back to the beginning and start again, this time paying special attention to every

example of God's heart of compassion for the poor and fringe members of society. Your world would be turned upside down! An especially interesting study is to pay attention to how men and women respond when caught in disobedience.

The very first nail-biting drama of the Bible is found right at the beginning, in Genesis 3, when Adam and Eve break God's only rule. If you aren't familiar with the story, pause now and go read Genesis 2:4-3:24, taking notes of any questions you have and things God might want you to learn about His character from this story. Careful readers will notice how Adam and Eve both subtly blame God for their disobedience. When God asks Adam to explain what's going on, Adam says something like, "Well, God, it's not really my fault. See, the woman, the one You created to help me, by the way, she gave me the fruit...oh, and, yeah, I ate it." To which Eve replies, "Hold on a minute. It was that stupid snake's fault. He lied to me! ...and yeah, I ate, too."

Naked and ashamed, backed into a corner, their hearts beating wildly in their chests, Adam and Eve pointed fingers, shifted blame and sought to justify their actions. I bet they rehashed that awful day over and over in their minds for the rest of their lives, wishing they could have done things differently.

Can you relate? The characters in this week's passage can. They are having their audience with God, their "What happened here, Adam?" moment. And one of them behaves just like we've seen time and again. Pointing fingers, subtle accusations, frantically seeking a way out. But then there's the other guy. Calm. Surrendered. Repentant. Hopeful. Why is he different? We can imagine that maybe he'd heard the stories of Jesus' remarkable life and ministry; maybe he was even there, standing at the edge of the crowd, his heart softening, Jesus' words sinking in. Maybe as a boy he learned the Scriptures and recognized in Jesus' all the wondrous signs of the coming Messiah. Yes, he had made some terrible choices that landed him on death row, but somewhere along the way he had come to believe, in a real, tangible way, that Jesus is who He says He is. He stopped blaming and justifying. He knew he was a sinner deserving of punishment. But he also knew Jesus had come to save sinners. He placed his trust in Jesus to be his defense, and his life (and afterlife) was on a very different course.

Begin by reading aloud the reflection, and this week's Scripture passage (Luke 23:39-43).

1. What does this passage stir up for you? Any questions, insights, convictions?
2. There are over 100 invitations to repent and turn back to God found in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Read aloud Jeremiah 31:19, Acts 2:38-39, Acts 3:19, and 2 Peter 3:9. How do these verses describe repentance?
3. Christians often refer to a time (or times) in their lives when they made a major decision to follow Christ. This involves submitting to Him as Lord of your life, trusting in His promise of forgiveness, cultivating a relationship through prayer (among other things), and receiving the Holy Spirit as guide and friend. Have you made that decision? Can you share about it with the group?
4. Scholars think that the word "paradise" as used in this passage is of Persian origin. At that time, the Persians described a shady, well-watered, well-maintained garden as a "paradise." So Jesus' reference here echoes the Garden of Eden. Read Genesis 2:4-25. Together, come up with at least 5 ways this garden-paradise is life-giving for Adam and Eve. What do you make of Jesus' reference to the Garden in this moment?
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?

