



# Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

*OurMDC.org*  
(925) 354-1096  
1641 Bixler Road,  
Discovery Bay  
California 94505

*Program for Sunday, April 26, 2026.*

*Please welcome the worship music team this week!*

**Call to Worship:** *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

*The Blessing*

## **Announcements for Sunday 4/26/2026**

**Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday**

- **Construction of the Patio Cover** should begin soon. The contractors are working on putting it together, and there have been some delays in securing the County permit.
- **Attention Ladies** - Mark your calendar for this Sat. May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 9 A.M., for Breakfast at the **Diggers Diner in Discovery Bay**
- **Attention Men** - Mark your calendar for this Sat. May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 A.M., for Breakfast at **Diggers Diner in Discovery Bay.**
- **If you have any prayer requests**, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering box in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: [PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org](mailto:PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org)

**Thank You for your Offerings!!**

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Mariner's Discovery Church

P.O. Box 1667

Discovery Bay, CA. 94505

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**Adoration:** *Here I Am to Worship*

**Selected Scriptures reading:** Psalm 1

**Message:** *Psalm 1 The Two Ways: Choosing the Path That Leads to True Blessing*

**Affirmation:** *My Jesus*

**Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues**

## Psalm 1

### The Righteous and the Wicked Contrasted.

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the path of sinners,  
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,  
Which yields its fruit in its season  
And its leaf does not wither;  
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so,  
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the wicked will perish.

**Devotional: Matthew 9:36** Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like a sheep without a shepherd.

### **8 Principles in experiencing the Favor of God.**

- 1) Seek God with your whole heart.
- 2) Walk uprightly and practice righteousness.
- 3) Live faithfully and truthfully.
- 4) Embrace obedience, even when costly.
- 5) Humble yourself before God.
- 6) Live in covenant loyalty (Hesed).
- 7) Walk in wisdom.
- 8) Live under the Lordship of Christ.

### ***Psalms (plucking strings), an introduction***

- Psalms is the largest book in the bible containing 150 psalms.
- Psalm 119 is the largest chapter in the bible, with 176 verses.
- Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the bible, with only 2 verses.
- Psalms is written by more authors than any other book in the bible.
  - Moses, David, Asaph, Sons of Korah, Solomon, Heman, Ethan, others (Ezra?)
- Between 900 to 1,000 years in the making.
- Most quoted book from the Old Testament in the New Testament.
- The intended **purpose** is to guide believers in the proper worship of God. Psalms have an intensely God-centered focus to direct our hearts toward him in every experience of life.
- Superscriptions were not a part of the original text. They are considered accurate and reliable.
  - Historical background.
  - Musical instructions.
  - Pauses.(?)
- Ancient Hebrew poetry is based on rhythm and parallelism.

- First line with an idea, reinforce in second line.
- Synonymous, Antithetical, Synthetic, Emblematic, Climactic, Chiastic.
- 5 Books:
  - I. Psalms 1 (or 3) to 41
  - II. Psalms 42-72
  - III. Psalms 73-89
  - IV. Psalms 90-106
  - V. Psalms 107-150
- Types:
  - Wisdom
  - Royal
  - Lament
  - Imprecatory
  - Thanksgiving
  - Pilgrimage
  - Enthronement

***Psalm 1:1 The Path We Avoid.***

**1:1** How blessed is the man who does not **walk** in the **counsel** of the **wicked**,  
 Nor **stand** in the **path** of **sinners**,  
 Nor **sit** in the **seat** of **scoffers**!

- Blessed, how is the word used elsewhere?
  - Psalm 32:1-2, Psalm 34:8; Psalm 65:4, Psalm 89:15
  - Forgiven, Refuge, Chosen, Satisfied, Walk in God's light
- Blessed means deeply happy, profoundly content in God, enjoying His favor fully and forever.
- Blessed is the person who delights in the law of the Lord. That person is not just doing the right things, that person is enjoying God and His Word.
- Triplets of triplets.
  - Walk, stand, sit. Counsel, path, seat. Wicked, Sinners, Scoffers.
  - Movement: from mild consideration to full involvement.
    - **Counsel** — words, advice, ideas
    - **Path** — lifestyle, behavior, pattern
    - **Seat** — belonging, identity, authority, participation in planning evil
    - **Walking** — listening, considering, being influenced
    - **Standing** — lingering, identifying, participating
    - **Sitting** — settling in, belonging, joining the scoffers
    - **Walking** — listening, considering, being influenced
    - **Standing** — lingering, identifying, participating
    - **Sitting** — settling in, belonging, joining the scoffers
- Here is the summary:
  - **Walking in the counsel of the wicked** — listening to ungodly advice
  - **Standing in the path of sinners** — adopting their lifestyle
  - **Sitting in the seat of scoffers** — joining the hardened mockers of God
- This is a downward spiral: Influence -> Participation -> Identity.

- This is a warning: The loss of blessedness begins with listening to ungodly counsel, then lingering in sinful patterns, then settling into scoffing.

**1:1** How blessed is the man who does not **walk** in the **counsel** of the **wicked**,  
Nor **stand** in the **path** of **sinners**,  
Nor **sit** in the **seat** of **scoffers**!

- What are the areas (entertainment, social media, workplace/ school relationships, intellectual influences) in my life that may be that first step in walking in the counsel of ungodly influence?
- Is there an area in my life where I may have progressed from walking to standing? What does it take to reverse course?
- How can we distinguish between being “in the world but not of it,” and the warning in Psalm 1:1? Where is the line for you between godly engagement and ungodly compromise?

**1:2** But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.

- What does “Law” (Torah) mean?
  - Instruction, Teaching, guidance, Promises, Warnings, Commands.
  - Descriptions of God.
  - Descriptions of reality.
  - More than just the rules.
  - Based on quotes in the New Testament, the “law” includes the Psalms themselves.
  - Synonyms used for Law: Testimony, Precepts, Commandments, Fear of the LORD, Rules/ Ordinances.

**1:2** But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.

- What does meditate mean?
  - A low murmur, whisper, like the cooing of a bird, or the growling of an animal. It suggests someone repeating a text to himself. Speaking it. Turning it over. Talking to yourself about it.
  - Not just reading, glancing. But speaking the Word to yourself. Asking questions of the Word. Hearing the answers to those questions. Having a conversation with God over the text.
  - We are meditating on the revealed Word of God (His teaching, His promises, His warnings of Himself, His ways).
  - We are meditating on words, phrases, clauses, paragraphs, chapters.
  - What does God intend by these words? What is God saying? What is God revealing about Himself, about us, about reality?
- How does the Psalmist shift from the ungodly to the righteous?
  - Could have said:
    - Walks with the righteous,
    - Stands with the godly,
    - Sits with the gracious.
  - Instead: Delight in the law of the LORD.
    - Why? Because delight is the root of behavior.

- If delight is sin: Walk, stand, sit in areas of sin.
- If delight is in the instruction of God: walk, stand, sit in godly situations/ relationships.
- Why? Because delight honors God more than duty.
  - Do out of duty -> honor authority. Do out of delight -> honor/ love God.
  - Duty shows submission. Delight shows treasure.
- How can I apply this?
  - Choose a passage to commit to reading and meditating for 7 days.
    - What does this text reveal about God, me, and our relationship, and the relationships I have with others?
  - Do scripture memorization. Write it. Read it. Say it. Memorize it.
  - Evaluate the balance of your spiritual intake ( the word of God/ Secular media).
  - Is my relationship with scripture characterized more by duty or delight?
  - What would it take to move more towards genuine delight. What practical and spiritual steps could be taken to move in that direction?
  - How can I practice more meditation on scripture every day?
  - What difference could it make with a passage “with you” (example: The LORD is my shepherd) in the moments of temptation, confusion, or discouragement you face?
- How can I apply this?
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3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,  
 Which yields its fruit in its season  
 And its leaf does not wither;  
 And in whatever he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so,  
 But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
 Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
 But the way of the wicked will perish.

- Who is this “he?” The one who does not walk with the wicked, does not stand in the path of sinners, does not sit in the seat of scoffers. That person delights in the law of the LORD.
- That person is like a tree. The stream of water is the Word of God.
- What is in this river?
  - The steadfast love of God. Refuge in the presence of God. Abundance from the house of God. The river of the delights of God. The fountain of life. The light in which we see light. This is a picture of all-providing grace.
- What are the three effects of rooting in the Word of God?
  - Yielding fruit in its season.
  - Leaf does not wither.
  - Whatever is done, it prospers.
- Is line 3 naïve?
  - Give up on the bible?
  - This is contradictory?
  - This is the word of God, so there must be more to understand it to be true.

**Romans 8:32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

**Romans 8:35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**Romans 8:37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

- Who are the wicked?
  - They walk in the counsel of the wicked.
  - They stand in the path of sinners.
  - They sit in the seat of scoffers.
  - They do NOT delight in the law of the LORD.
  - They do NOT meditate on the Word of God.
  - Their life is NOT like a tree planted by life-giving streams.
  - Their leaf withers.
  - They do NOT prosper – especially not in the ultimate sense.
  - **Instead; they are like chaff which the wind drives away.**
- What is chaff? Husk around the grain. Light. Useless. Temporary. Blown away by the wind.
- The wicked lack substance, rootedness, endurance, life-giving value. They are driven, unstable, acted upon, not in control.
- Who rules the wind? They are blown away by the judgment of God.
- How do we prosper through death and suffering?
  - Suffering works for our good.
  - Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we will have ultimate victory over death.
- What does it mean that everything that person does prospers?
  - Everything that person thinks, says, and does, and every circumstance that is experienced is being worked for the good.

- That good can happen in spiritual ways, relational ways, emotional ways, material ways.
- Ultimately, that person will be rewarded by the Lord, and nothing will have been in vain.
- Who are the righteous in verse 6?
  - Based on Psalm 34:15; Psalm 37:17; Psalm 37:39; Psalm 55:22, Psalm 32:1-2; Psalm 32:10-11; Psalm 146:5-6,8; the righteous are the forgiven, trusting, the upright in heart; = the justified.
  - Our righteousness is imputed as a result of the completed work of Jesus Christ.
    - Believers get righteousness as status = right standing before God, received by faith.
    - Believer have righteousness as fruit = real growing obedience and uprightness produced by the grace of God.
- Have there been seasons when you have felt like a winter in the valley when you have felt unfruitful or dormant? Have you later realized that those are times of deep root growth? Can the tree metaphor add perspective on the seasons you have experienced?
- Has the understanding of prosperity from the perspective as the Word of God explains it, help in your understanding of your experiences?
- How does the promise that “the LORD knows the way of the righteous,” in your most challenging seasons, maybe when you feel unseen, unrecognized, most forgotten, change how you may feel about your experience at that time? How does that truth that the LORD knows provide emotional stability that circumstances cannot give?
- Identify one underground stream (consistent means of grace) that has sustained your spiritual life in dry seasons. Commit to protecting and deepening that access to that stream in your life.
- Take stock of what you are building (professionally, financially, and spiritually). Are you accumulating spiritual substance (depth of character, love for God, obedience) or are you accumulating spiritual chaff? Make one change to migrate from appearance to substance.

**You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.**

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