



# Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

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

***Program for Sunday, April 19, 2026.***

***Please welcome the worship music team this week!***

**Call to Worship:** *Here For You*  
*Friend of God*

## ***Announcements for Sunday 4/19/2026***

**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.
- **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

or **CALL THE OFFICE - (925) 354-1096**

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**Adoration:** *Holy Forever*

**Selected Scriptures reading**

**Message:** *Walking in the Favor of God*

**Affirmation:** *Child of Love*

**Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues**

## *Selected Scriptures*

**Proverbs 8:17** "I love those who love me;  
And those who diligently seek me will find me."

**Proverbs 8:35** "For he who finds me finds life  
And obtains favor from the Lord."

**Jeremiah 29:13** "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

**Proverbs 12:2** A good man will obtain favor from the Lord,  
But He will condemn a man who devises evil.

**Proverbs 15:8** The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord,  
But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

**Psalms 5:12** For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O Lord,  
You surround him with favor as with a shield.

**Proverbs 12:22** Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,  
But those who deal faithfully are His delight.

**Proverbs 16:13** Righteous lips are the delight of kings,  
And he who speaks right is loved.

**John 8:32** "and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

**1 Peter 2:19–20** For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up  
under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly  
treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you  
patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

**James 1:12** Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will  
receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

**James 4:6** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT  
GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

**Psalms 25:9** He leads the humble in justice,  
And He teaches the humble His way.

**1 Peter 5:5–6** You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe  
yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES  
GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

**Psalms 30:5** For His anger is but for a moment,  
His favor is for a lifetime;  
Weeping may last for the night,  
But a shout of joy comes in the morning.

**Micah 6:8** He has told you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the Lord require of you  
But to do justice, to love kindness,  
And to walk humbly with your God?

**Psalms 103:17** But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who  
fear Him,

And His righteousness to children's children,

**Proverbs 8:35** "For he who finds me finds life  
And obtains favor from the Lord."

**Proverbs 3:13–14** How blessed is the man who finds wisdom  
And the man who gains understanding.  
For her profit is better than the profit of silver  
And her gain better than fine gold.

**James 1:5** But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and  
without reproach, and it will be given to him.

**Ephesians 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

**John 15:4-5** "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

**Romans 8:1** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**Friday Devotional: John 10:30** "I and the Father are One."

### **Meeting God in the Evening**

- There is an architecture to prayer: Morning, Daytime, Evening.
- Night Watches - Sacred Vigils.
- Prayer: Meeting God on the bed.
- Prayer: The evening sacrifice.
- Prayer: Seeking God in the night.
- Prayer in the night: Jesus us our model.
- When darkness falls, draw near to God.

***When darkness falls, draw near to God.***

### **1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 4:8**

- Present imperative: pray continually, constantly. It does not mean uninterrupted.
- All of life can be lived before God as worship.
- Brother Lawrence: Practice of the Presence of God. No activity (even menial) would be spiritually empty.
- Prayer can sanctify the ordinary (work, driving, parenting, studying, resting, chores) by consciously offering them to God.
- If we approach God with seriousness, repentance, and devotion, God will draw near to us.
- How? Set anchors. Weave prayers into transition times. After conversations. Use "breath prayers." Turn worries into prayer.
- Are there areas in my life that I act as if I do not need God?
- What simple daily rhythms can I build?
- How can I make my prayers more honest?

### ***PRINCIPLE 1: Seek God with a Whole Heart***

#### **Proverbs 8:17; Proverbs 8:35; Jeremiah 29:13**

- A reciprocal relationship: Love for GOD and Wisdom is met with love in return. Diligent seeking is rewarded with finding.
- God is not a distant deity. **Pray expectantly.**
- Middle East royal favor guarantees protection, provision, and standing.
- Abundant life is what comes with being right relationship with God.
- In exile, external markers of the presence of God are stripped away. But even in Babylon, amid the rubble of broken hopes, God is findable, through wholehearted seeking.
- God does not play hide and seek. **Give God the first fruits of your day.**
- Promise of God: If we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him.
  - This is not spectator faith!

### ***PRINCIPLE 2: Walk Uprightly and Practice Righteousness***

#### **Proverbs 12:2; Proverbs 15:8; Psalm 5:12**

- Promise: Upright living attracts divine favor. Devising evil brings divine condemnation. Prayers of the righteous please God.
- Correct ritual without moral integrity is an abomination to God.

- The believer who lives uprightly will find that prayer is a delightful communion.
- Favor as a shield (most essential defensive military equipment).
- God actively blesses the righteous and actively surrounds them with favor.
- This divine protection is ground in the righteousness of Christ credited to the believer.
- Is my worship genuine or performative? Am I a Sunday Christian and act as an unbeliever for the rest of the week?
- A believer who walks in righteousness is comprehensively shielded by divine favor.

***PRINCIPLE 3: Live Faithfully and Truthfully***

**Proverbs 12:22; Proverbs 16:13; John 8:32**

- Lying is an abomination to God <- strongest Hebrew expression of divine revulsion. We are God's image bearer to a lost world.
- Satan is the father of lies and lying is alignment with the enemy of our souls.
- Faithfulness is "truth-telling" that is reliable and flows from character.
- Jesus is the truth, and the freedom that is available is from the dominion and condemnation from sin.
- The sanctified heart produces truth that comes from the heart (Luke 6:45)
- We must speak the truth in love, even it is uncomfortable or costly.

***PRINCIPLE 4: Embrace Obedience, Even When Costly***

**1 Peter 2:19-20; James 1:12**

- This is active conscious suffering for righteousness that mirrors the cross. There is divine credit in suffering unjustly and bearing it patiently for the sake of God.
- Suffering is an act of worship and witness. Suffering is NOT evidence of the disfavor of God.
- The obedient sufferer participates in something grace-filled and God-honoring.
- Faithfulness to God guarantees divine approval and ultimate vindication.
- The believer who refuses to compromise and maintains integrity and then suffers for it is doing something beautiful in the sight of God.
- Persevere means to remain under to not flee with pressure intensifies. Perseverance (evidence of genuine of faith) leads to approval.
- Compromise is to abandon your faith when continuing integrity costs too much.

***PRINCIPLE 5: Humble Yourself Before God***

**James 4:6; Psalm 25:9; 1 Peter 5:5-6**

- The response of God to a human's humility is grace that is in greater abundance than the world can offer.
- Pride is self-enthronement. The choice is binary.
- This is a very real threat to the believer.
- Humbling by circumstances can be a gift that can orient the believer towards God.
- The Holy Spirit does not force His guidance on the arrogant but patiently waits for the heart that is emptied of self to be filled with His wisdom.
- "Lord, I do not know the way, please lead me." Have a posture of humble dependence.
- Exaltation happens from God in His time.

***PRINCIPLE 6: Live in Covenant Loyalty (Hesed)***

- The favor of God is not conditional on our performance. It is a permanent, overarching reality.
- Weeping is real, acknowledged and is not dismissed by God. Believers are not immune. But sorrow is temporary (not eternal).
- Be honest about the night, and confident in the someday morning.

- Do justice (act rightly in relationships), love kindness (demonstrate steadfast love as an expression of character), walk humbly (personal covenant relationship with God Himself).
- The Holy Spirit is shaping believers in the kind of person who naturally does justice, loves covenant faithfulness, and walks intimately with God.
- The *hesed* of God is most fully expressed in the sacrifice of Christ for sinners. It is permanently secured through the resurrection.
- During seasons of doubt, spiritual dryness, moral failure and grief, the believer's anchor is anchored, not in personal performance but in the everlasting *hesed* of God.

***PRINCIPLE 7: Walk in Wisdom***

**Proverbs 8:35; Proverbs 3:13-14; James 1:5**

- Wisdom is presented as a tree of life. Wisdom was lost at the Fall and is what Christ restored. Christ is wisdom from God.
- Wisdom is built through prayer, scripture, discipleship, fellowship, and reflective experience. This is how to live well in the presence of God.
- A believer needs wisdom in order to navigate suffering well.
- God gives wisdom without complication or strings attached.
- If we lack wisdom, ask God. The promise is absolute. Wisdom is the practical understanding and discernment to navigate the complexities of life from the perspective of God.

***PRINCIPLE 8: Live Under the Lordship of Christ***

**Ephesians 1:3; John 15:4-5; Romans 8:1**

- Ephesians 1:3-14 is one sentence and the longest in the New Testament.
- Living under the Lordship of Christ means inhabiting the full spiritual reality of what God has already given us in Christ. We are co-heirs of Christ. We access these blessings through faith, scripture, prayer, obedience, and worship.
- We can live below our spiritual inheritance (anxiety, defeat, prayerlessness, addiction to worldly affirmation) while possessing every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- Abiding in Christ is the practical expression of the positional reality declared in Ephesians. It is maintained in prayer (John 15:7), obedience (John 15:20), and love for community (John 15:12-17). It is maintained by sustained connection to Jesus Christ.
- No condemnation is absolute, comprehensive, not partial, not provisional, not temporary. The "guilty" verdict has been fully satisfied in the cross of Christ.

***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.

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

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