



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

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

Program for Sunday, April 12, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *God So Loved*
Battle Belongs

Announcements for Sunday 4/12/2026

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

Thank You for your Offerings!!

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Adoration: *Waymaker*

Selected Scriptures reading

Message: *When darkness falls, draw near*

Affirmation: *The River*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Selected Scriptures

Psalm 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur,
And He will hear my voice.

Psalm 92:1-2 It is good to give thanks to the Lord
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning
And Your faithfulness by night,

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

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Psalm 63:6 When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the night watches,

Psalm 119:148 My eyes anticipate the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word.

Lamentations 2:19 "Arise, cry aloud in the night
At the beginning of the night watches;
Pour out your heart like water
Before the presence of the Lord;
Lift up your hands to Him
For the life of your little ones
Who are faint because of hunger
At the head of every street."

Psalm 4:4 Tremble, and do not sin;
Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

Psalm 4:8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep,
For You alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety.

Psalm 149:5 Let the godly ones exult in glory;
Let them sing for joy on their beds.

Psalm 141:2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You;
The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

Ezra 9:5 But at the evening offering I arose from my humiliation, even with my garment and my robe torn, and I fell on my knees and stretched out my hands to the Lord my God;

Hebrews 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Revelation 5:8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints

Psalm 22:2 O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer;
And by night, but I have no rest.

Psalm 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.

Psalm 77:2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;
In the night my hand was stretched out without weariness;
My soul refused to be comforted.

Psalm 16:7 I will bless the Lord who has counseled me;
Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.

Luke 6:12 It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

Mark 1:35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing;

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Romans 8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;

Friday Devotional: John 10:29 “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.”

H.E.A.R.T.	Jesus walks with the two disappointed disciples.
Habitation (of the heart)	Leaving Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus, walking in despair; shattered hope
Expectation (of the mind)	Messiah would be a political and military deliverer: Redeemer of Israel
Agitation/Alteration (of the situation)	Jesus told them that they were slow of heart to believe and explains Scriptures.
Revelation (of God / God's will)	Jesus blesses and breaks bread with them. They recognize that it is Jesus!
Transformation (of the heart, mind, soul, will, and life)	From cold hearts to burning hearts. From walking away to running back. From grief-saturated rehearsal of a dead-end story to testimony-filled proclamation.

Disciples On the road with Jesus: Conclusion

- The heart of the issue is that it is an issue of the heart.
- Five movements:

- Habitation.
- Expectation.
- Agitation (alteration).
- Realization.
- Transformation.
- When the heart is cold, the road leads away from God.
- When the heart is dull, the Scriptures do not penetrate.
- When the heart is burning after the risen Christ has done His transforming work, nothing in this world can keep you from running back to Jerusalem.
- The good news is that the risen Christ specializes in cold hearts. He walked 7 miles to find 2 broken disciples. Jesus entered their conversation uninvited. Jesus opened the Scriptures to their dull understanding. Jesus consented to their urgent invitation. He broke the bread on their table. He set their hearts on fire.
- The good news is that the risen Christ specializes in cold hearts. He walked 7 miles to find 2 broken disciples. Jesus entered their conversation uninvited. Jesus opened the Scriptures to their dull understanding. Jesus consented to their urgent invitation. He broke the bread on their table. He set their hearts on fire.
- Jesus Christ does the same thing today. Right now, Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, is beside you on whatever road you are on.
- If you are on the road of Emmaus, away from hope, away from faith, away from His people; Jesus is there. Not to condemn, but to walk with you, to open the Scriptures to you, to break bread with you, and to set your heart on fire.
- Will I invite Him to stay?

Prayer Architecture: Morning, Daytime, Evening.

Psalm 55:17; Psalm 92:1-2; Psalm 1:2; Daniel 6:10; Joshua 1:8

- Both the Old Testament and New Testament reveal a structured rhythmic approach to prayer.
- Complaints. Murmurs. Meditate. God will hear my voice.
- Bookend the day:
 - God's faithfulness in the morning. Orient to the mercy/ grace of God.
 - God's faithfulness at night. Acknowledge God's faithfulness.
- Build a simple evening bookend into your day (set a time).
 - Name 3 demonstrations of the faithfulness of God from that day.
- What pressures in your life most threaten your structure of prayer?

The night watches: Sacred Vigils

Psalm 63:6; Psalm 119:148; Lamentations 2:19

- God is everywhere (Psalm 139:7-12).
- This anticipates the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9).
 - Every Christian is a watchman on the wall.
- The person who meets God in the night watches will see what others miss entirely.
- When God interrupts your sleep, it may be an invitation.
- When things are very still, we may hear God most clearly.

- What is your first instinct when you wake in the night (anxiety, entertainment, or prayer).
- What would your life look like if you look forward to nighttime prayer?

Prayer: Meeting God on the bed

Psalm 4:4; Psalm 4:8; Psalm 149:5

- Prayer that is still, small, interior. Be silent and let God speak.
- The bed can be a confessional, a sanctuary, and a worship songfest.
- “Coram Deo”: a life lived before the face of God.
 - God sees us as we are, and God meets us there.
- God, Who knows you thoroughly and loves you completely is present in the most private of spaces.
- Establish a “bed liturgy:” Confession; Gratitude and act of trust.
- Practice silence in your bed before sleep. What arises in your soul toward God?
- Is my bed a place of consecration or distraction?
- What gets in your way (emotions, worries, frustrations) that get in the way of becoming still? How can you surrender those to God?

Prayer: The evening sacrifice

Psalm 141:2; Ezra 9:5; Hebrews 13:15; Revelation 5:8

- Offering the end of the day to God.
- Daniel and Ezra continued to orient their personal prayer toward “the time of the evening offering.” Without a temple, the evening hour is a sacred appointment.
- David asks that his prayer “be counted as incense” and “lifting of hands as the evening offering.” Without access to the temple, the substance of the Temple ritual was never the animal or the incense itself. It is about the heart of the worshiper.
- The smoke that rose from the altar as described as a pleasing aroma is linked to the sacrifice of Christ in the New Testament (Ephesians 5:2).
- The believer’s prayer ascends through the sacrifice of Christ is received in heaven as acceptable worship. The ultimate fulfillment in Revelation.
- Adopt the practice of an evening offering prayer; maybe an intentional act of worship as your day concludes.
- Maybe a prayer like: Lord, I offer you this day - its failures, its gifts, its incomplete business. May my prayer rise as incense before You tonight.”
- Do you think about your evening prayer as a sacrifice?
- Have you had a moment in prayer where you seemed to “interrupt you with a word, a conviction, or clarity?”

Prayer: Seeking God in the night

Psalm 22:2; Psalm 30:5; Psalm 77:2; Psalm 16:7; Lamentations 2:19

- When there is a crisis or a need for wisdom.
- Some of us have had nights that have lasted far too long.
- It feels like there is silence from heaven after prayer after prayer.
- Speak the truth (the whole truth) with love to God. Your honest complaint to God in the night is not an act of faithlessness. It is an act of faith — because you are still talking to Him.

- The God who does not always explain Himself is always present.
- God is not offended by honest anguish. God preserved these psalms in order to give His people who are suffering the languish of lament. Use these words.
- Am I honest with God in the night?
- Have you experienced a night of weeping followed by a morning of joy? How has that shaped your faith?

Prayer: Jesus is our model

Luke 6:12; Mark 1:35

- Jesus prays all night before selecting the Twelve.
- The One in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily (Colossians 2:9) spent entire nights in prayer. Not just “minutes.” Not just “quiet times.” Alone.
- Are there decisions that I am facing right now that deserve more time and attention?
- Jesus at Gethsemane: surrender, “not My will, but Yours be done.” Weeping. Sweating. Prostrate. Desperation in the dark.
- Before any major decision (career, relationship, financials, real estate, direction) build in an intentional time of prayer, asking for wisdom (James 1:5). Major decisions deserve major prayer investment.
- Practice Gethsemane prayers of surrender at the end of the day. Name the thing you most want to control and offer it to God.

When darkness falls, draw near.

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?

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

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