



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

Program for Sunday, December 28, 2025

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *Confidence*

Glorious Day

Welcome, announcements, and prayer:

Announcements

Thanks for joining our Worship Service today....

- **Bible Studies are temporarily postponed.** We will resume after the holidays. Please let Pastor Larry know if you have a preference on a day of the week you would like to meet.
- Thank you to all those who helped with the Christmas Tree Sales. Although we didn't sell all the trees, we were able to reach out to many in the neighborhood who may someday join us as we proclaim the good news of our Lord and Savior.
- Men's Breakfast is this Sat. Jan. 3rd at **9:00 AM at Diggers Diner** in Discovery Bay.
- Women's Breakfast is this Sat. Jan. 3rd at **9:00 AM at the Marina Restaurant in Discovery Bay 9AM.**
- **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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P.O. Box 1667

Discovery Bay, CA. 94505

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Adoration: *Goodness of God*

Selected Scripture reading: Advent Love!

Message: *Receive the Love*

Affirmation: *Soul on Fire*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Selected Scriptures:

Galatians 6:7-10 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord from your wealth

And from the first of all your produce;

So your barns will be filled with plenty

And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Hosea 10:12 Sow with a view to righteousness,

Reap in accordance with kindness;

Break up your fallow ground,

For it is time to seek the Lord

Until He comes to rain righteousness on you.

Psalms 126:5-6 Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting.

He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed,

Shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Proverbs 11:24-25 There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more,

And there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want.

The generous man will be prosperous,

And he who waters will himself be watered.

John 4:35-38 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 "Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37

"For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

Ecclesiastes 11:1 Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning

Christmas Devotional: John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Friday Devotional: John 1:16-17, "For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."

Biblical Hope does not disappoint,

- Hope is anchored in the character of God.
- Hope is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- Hope is lived out by believers.

Biblical Peace does not disappoint,

- Peace is anchored in the character of God.
- Peace is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- Peace is lived out by believers.

Biblical Joy does not disappoint,

- Joy is anchored in the character of God.
- Joy is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- Joy is lived out by believers.

What is Advent Love?

- Prophetic Proclamation
- Godly Proclamation (Angels spoke for God)
- Incarnation.
- The Reason:
 - Love, Kindness, Mercy
- The Result
 - Redemption. We know grace. We become rich through the poverty of Jesus

Biblical Love does not disappoint,

- Love is anchored in the character of God.
- Love is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- Love is lived out by believers.

Sowing and Reaping themes in the Bible:

| Category | Key Verses |
|-----------------------|---|
| Core sowing/reaping | Galatians 6:7–9; 2 Corinthians 9:6 |
| Financial sowing | Luke 6:38; Proverbs 3:9–10; 2 Corinthians 9:10–11 |
| OT sowing/reaping | Hosea 10:12; Proverbs 11:18; Psalm 126:5–6 |
| Jesus' sowing imagery | Matthew 13; Mark 4; John 4:35–38 |
| Spiritual sowing | James 3:18; Romans 6:22 |
| Perseverance | Ecclesiastes 11; James 5:7 |

What is sowing and reaping? Galatians 6:7-10

- Misuse: Only about money and “seed offerings” given to ministries.
- Misuse: Turning a relational principle to a mechanical law.
- Misuse: Ignores biblical teaching on suffering.
- Misuse: If you are in financial trouble, you have sown wrongly.
- Proper use: Context is about moral and spiritual, not financial.
 - Flesh vs. Spirit, burden bearing, Community Care
- Proper use: Sowing is a long-term discipleship pattern.
- Proper use: Financial generosity can be sowing to the Spirit, when motivated by love and guided by the Spirit.

What is sowing and reaping? 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

- Misuse: Treating giving as a financial transaction.
- Misuse: Promise guaranteed financial returns.
- Misuse: Emphasis on amount over heart.
- Misuse: centering blessing on self, not on God.
- Proper use: the harvest is righteousness, generosity, thanksgiving.
- Proper use: God's provision is enablement for obedience.
- Proper use: Giving is participating in the grace of God; not for leverage over Him.

What is sowing and reaping? Luke 6:38

- Misuse: Out of context (judgement, forgiveness, generosity).
- Misuse: Reducing the verse to a money formula.
- Misuse: Treating God like a predictable investment scheme.
 - God is NOT a vending machine.
 - Scripture shows Paul as both generous and suffering.
 - Return is portrayed as relational, moral, and spiritual reward.

- Misuse: Ignoring mercy and forgiveness context, cuts from ethical relational core.
- Misuse: People give from fear, shame, guilt, pressure, greed; not love and joy.
- Proper use: Keep giving relational (Do not judge, do not condemn, pardon, give).
- Proper use: Broaden “giving” beyond money (kindness, listening, time, attention, sharing).
- Proper use: Highlight the character of God (generous, forgiving), not a technique.
- Proper use: Emphasizing Spiritual fruit, character transformation, relational restoration, eternal reward, may be some material reward is not guaranteed.

What is sowing and reaping? Proverbs 3:9–10

- Proverbs are general rules of life; not guaranteed for every situation.
- Misuse: Turning it into a guaranteed formula.
- Misuse: Reducing verse to manipulative fundraising lever, rather than Whole-Life stewardship call.
- Misuse: Promising self-indulgent increase (luxury, status, personal comfort).
- Misuse: Ignoring moral and covenant dimensions.
 - Treating as a neutral principle, that heart, repentance, obedience do not matter.
- Proper use: Anchor giving in trust (verses 5 and 6); about faith, not technique.
- Proper use: Emphasize first-fruits, not leftovers.
- Proper use: View blessings as the wise generous re-supply of God.
 - The provision of God is for needs, continued generosity, growth in reliance on God.
- Proper use: The whole stewardship picture matters: Work, spending, saving, giving, contentment.

What is sowing and reaping? Hosea 10:12

- Misuse: Reducing the verse to money and material need. Sowing is in repentance and righteousness. Rain is spiritual restoration and faithfulness, not guaranteed wealth.
- Misuse: Treating it as universal success formula. If you give, God must respond.
- Misuse: Promising self-indulgent increase (luxury, status, personal comfort).
- Misuse: Ignoring sin, judgment and repentance. Prophetic “edge” is lost.
- Misuse: Exchanging emotional hype for sustained seeking.
- Proper use: Anchor giving in trust (verses 5 and 6); about faith, not technique.
- Proper use: Emphasize first-fruits, not leftovers.
- Proper use: Focus on repentance and heart renewal.
 - Breaking up fallow ground: Confession, surrender, allowing God to break hardness and apathy.
- Proper use: Sowing is obedience and righteousness, not just giving.
- Proper use: Christ is the righteousness that we need poured out on us. Holy Spirit can soften our hearts.

What is sowing and reaping? Psalm 126:5-6

- Misuse: Ignoring context; verse is about the restoration of the people of the covenant, not a private money-back guarantee.
- Misuse: God is reduced to a vending machine. Sow a painful offering, reap a fast blessing. What about biblical themes of suffering, patience, discipling, and the sovereignty of God?
- Misuse: Often used to prey on the vulnerable. Used to motivate financially desperate people.
- Proper use: Honor context; restoration of the people of the covenant after the exile, with hardship and agricultural risk.
- Proper use: Emphasize faithful obedience, not transactional giving. Sowing is ongoing trust and obedience, with prayer, repentance, righteousness, service, even among tears.
- Proper use: Focus on the character of God, not a formula. God is gracious, restorative, and attentive to our tears. God brings joy, His way, in His time, sometimes in eternity.

What is sowing and reaping? Proverbs 11:24-25

- Proverbs are general rules of life; not guaranteed for every situation.
- Misuse: Reducing a relationship with God into a transactional formula.
- Misuse: God is reduced to a vending machine. Sow now, even if it is painful, God is obligated to multiply.
- Misuse: Giving is to get, not an expression of love and trust.

- Misuse: Reduces prosperous to money only.
- Misuse: Centers on self (“How can I get more?” Instead of “How can I reflect the generous heart of God?”).
- Proper use: Focus on becoming the person with the character of generosity, not trying to exploit a spiritual investment strategy.
- Proper use: Look for the full scope of blessing; joy, spiritual vitality, relational trust.
- Proper use: Respect the sovereignty and timing of God.
- Proper use: Keep the cross of Christ in the frame. The “scattering is Jesus giving His life. The harvest is the resurrection and a redeemed people. Our giving flows from grace received, not as a means to manipulate God.

What is sowing and reaping? John 4:35-38

- Misuse: Framing harvest as financial breakthrough. “Sow the financial seed now and your harvest is ready.”
- Misuse: Ignoring missional context; evangelism, repentance, eternal life.
- Misuse: Turning sowing and reaping into a transactional law. Give (sow) money -> reap money, promotions, personal success.
- Proper use: Honor context; reaper “gathers fruit for life eternal, not material wealth.
- Proper use: Emphasize mission of reaching neighbors for Christ. Join with God in gathering people into eternal life
- Proper use: View harvest as people, not profit. Fields are humans, “fruit” is eternal life in Christ.

What is sowing and reaping? Ecclesiastes 11:1; Ecclesiastes 11:6

- Misuse: “Cast your bread” as a way of betting on miracle.
- Misuse: “After many days” is ignored.
- Misuse: Financialization, “bread” is money. Finding bread is financial multiplication.
- Misuse: Guarantee of return, treating verse as an investment principle.
- Misuse: Ignores Ecclesiastes themes of uncertainty, and unpredictability.
- Proper use: Ecclesiastes teaches you will not know what will succeed.
- Proper use: Future outcomes are hidden from humans.
- Proper use: Text encourages faithful, prudent risk, not promised reward.
- Proper use: Work hard (diligence), not simply “speak words,” or “give money.”
- Proper use: Do not expect a harvest without labor.
- Proper use: Trust in the secret providence and activity (v5) of God.

What is sowing and reaping?

- Forming a character of generosity.
- Being a faithful steward, understanding that we are managing another’s resources.
- Giving with love and a cheerful heart, not giving to get.
- There are more rewards and blessings in this life than material gain. We need to act like it, and this world is not our home.
- Sowing is sometimes diligent work in the morning and evening.
- Sowing is working towards a spiritual harvest (human souls).
- God is not a vending machine. That view treats God as an idol.
 - God hates idols.
 - God strikes down idols.

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

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