

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 17, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

Greetings and Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

David, Debbie, and Robert Barclift; Marc and Rachel Emery

One: Out of a world of cutthroat competition, of winners-and-losers, and too many left behind we come together.

All: The world's ways are not our ways. The world's ways are not Christ's ways.

One: Out of a world of hatred, violence, individualism, and life-taking power we gather as Koinonia, as God's people.

All: God's ways are inclusive, expansive, and life-giving for all peoples.

One: Come and worship the One whose love knows no limits! Swim and splash in the cleansing waters of divine community! Resurrect your spirits and souls in worship of the One!

All: Praise be to the Everlasting One!

"God of Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
thy true religion in our hearts increase;
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Litany of Lamentation and Hope

For those who are suffering...

For those who are injured...

For the families that are separated...

For medical workers, essential personnel, and all public officials...

For those who answer the call to comfort and give aid...

For those who provide support through their prayers...

For those who are dying...

For those who died while saving the lives of others...
For all who lost their lives...
For those who survived...
For the children who have witnessed loss for the first time...
For the men and women who have lost their spouses...
For all who mourn and those who comfort them...
For generosity of spirit...
For hope in times of despair...
For light in the darkness...

Gracious and Loving God, you are our comforter and our hope. Hear your people's prayers as they come before you. Strengthen us in this time of need. Inspire us to acts of charity and generosity and give us hope of a brighter future. We ask this in Jesus' name....(*silent prayer*)...Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: ...Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Special Music

Scripture

John 14:1-7

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: ***Thanks be to God!***

Sermon

Finding Life on the Back Row

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;

And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son
And Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore,
The God who was, and is,
And shall be evermore.

Prayers of the People

*After each petition, Pastor will say "Lord, In Your Mercy."
Congregation will respond with "Hear Our Prayer."*

Lord's Prayer

***Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.***

"Love Song"

I've heard it said that a man would climb a mountain
Just to be with the one he loves
How many times has he broken that promise
It has never been done
I've never climbed the highest mountain
But I walked the hill of Calvary
Just to be with you, I'd do anything
There's not price I would not pay
Just to be with you, I'd give anything
I would give my life away

I've heard it said that a man would swim the ocean
Just to be with the one he loves
How many times has he broken that promise
It can never be done
I've never swam the deepest ocean
But I walked upon the raging sea
Just to be with you, I'd do anything
There's not price I would not pay
Just to be with you, I'd give anything
I would give my life away

I know that you don't understand the fullness of My love
How I died upon the cross for your sins
And I know you don't realize how much that I gave you
But I promise, I would do it all again

Just to be with you, I did everything
There's not price I did not pay
Just to be with you, I gave everything
Yes, I gave my life away

Benediction

Announcements for May 17

Intro

Good morning. Grace, mercy, and peace in the name of Jesus Christ. Welcome to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. Today I want to welcome our virtual congregation who are joining together via Zoom as well as those of you who perhaps are watching on a late Sunday night, or a rainy Wednesday afternoon.

Where we are

I want to update you further as to where we are as it pertains to the near future. Right now, we are continuing to gather information and heed guidance from health officials, church leaders, and well as get feedback from you. Your Worship Ministry Team has met for each of the past two weeks and we are fervently working to imagine what a reuniting for corporate worship might look like. As of now, as you might expect, there are several ideas, several thoughts, but nothing is set, nor do we anticipate it to be for some time. We know that may be difficult to hear, but we want you know that first and foremost, we value your health and well-being and those around you. This takes time and we pray, with God's help, that with time, will also come greater clarity. Your Session will meet later today to further discuss where we are and where we may be going. As always, we will keep you apprised as we develop our processes.

Dates to Look Forward To

We continue to look forward to so much happening in the life of the church. Your giving to the Covid-19 Fund and the Food Drive we held last Sunday has been overwhelmingly positive. You have already given more than \$12,000 and our Task Force has disbursed \$8,000 of those monies to area organizations responding to the needs right here.

Next Sunday we will celebrate the Ascension of Christ, on May 31st we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday and once again celebrate the sacrament of communion.

Then on June 7th, I will start a Zoom Sunday School class titled Presbyterian 101. This class will begin at 10am each Sunday, and we want you to let us know if you want to participate so we can send you materials in advance. Please contact me at barrett@mvpchurch.org to get further information. Whether you have been a

Presbyterian your whole life or if you are rather new to our branch of Christianity, we welcome you to come with your questions.

Communal Prayers and Concerns

We continue to pray for our world and those of you who are dealing with the mental and economic effects of the pandemic. Please reach out to the church anytime. We want to support you to the best of our ability.

Finally, we want to thank you. As you will hear later today, we are incredibly grateful for the radical generosity you have shown to us as a church as well as the COVID fund we mentioned earlier. Because of your support we are able to continue our mission to stay connected, to be a family of faith, and to live into our missional call to serve Christ and serve each other. So let us, in that spirit, prepare our hearts to worship God....