

May 24 Announcements

Good morning! Grace, mercy, and peace in the name of Jesus Christ our ascended Lord. Welcome to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church on this Ascension Sunday. If this is your first time joining us, we hope you will peruse our website or checkout our Facebook page to learn more about who we are and how you can connect with us.

Letter to the Congregation

This week your Worship Team once again met and approved a letter to the congregation. If you have read the church-wide weekly email from this past Thursday, you have seen this letter, but we want you to know that this letter will also appear in the newsletter that will come out this week and you will also be sent a copy via postal mail. In other words, we want you to know exactly how we are currently thinking with regard to returning to some sort of in-person worship. I also want you to know that we value you and want to stay connected to you as we live into this season of unknown. Please continue to reach out to us. We will continue to reach out to you.

Coming Up at MVPC

Several things are currently happening in the life of the church. I know tonight our Young Adults are gathering via Zoom. Several other small groups and ministries continue to meet and connect and for that we are grateful and find assurance that God's church is alive!

Next Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost: the formation of Christ's Church. We will try the virtual congregation idea again (hopefully it will work), so be on the lookout to connect with us via Zoom. We will be celebrating Communion during this service so please feel free to bake some bread or grab some crackers.

On June 7th, we will start the Presbyterian 101 Sunday School Class that I will be leading. Let us know if you would like to be a part of the class so we can send you materials in advance.

We have also made the decision that every Second Wednesday at 7pm, we will offer a Taize service on Zoom. If you did not get a chance to join for that first gathering, feel free to try it out with us in June.

We have other opportunities that are tentatively planned for June that we hope to share with you in the coming days and weeks.

Your Generosity

We also want to say thank you. So far you have given more than \$22K to the COVID-19 Fund and the task force has dispersed more than \$8K of those funds to various mission partners. You will be able to see a full list of who has received these monies in the upcoming newsletter.

We are overwhelmed by your benevolent stewardship at this time. You have responded to this season of uncertainty by ensuring that we can continue in our mission to serve God here in Sandy Springs. If you would like to give to the church or help us in our response to COVID-19, please go to the giving tab on our website or simply send us a check via postal mail.

On the other hand, if you are a church member in need of support at this time, don't hesitate to reach out. We are committed to supporting you to the best of our ability.

Prayer Concerns

Finally, we want to lift up in prayer Mark Fifield, who is currently in the hospital, and Helen Johnson, who is recovering from a broken leg, as well as Karla Schultz, daughter of frequent visitor Jane Schultz. We also keep in prayer Linda Bhame, Kirk Pumphrey, Inez Cole, as well as others who go unnamed but are dealing with the mental and emotional toll that this pandemic has on us all. May we be a prayerful people full of empathy for our neighbors at this time.

In that spirit, let us turn our hearts and minds to God, to breathe in Christ's Word...

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 24, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

Opening Words

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!

O seed of Israel's chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!

Let every tongue and every tribe
responsive to his call,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!

Oh, that with all the sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Greetings and Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Paul, Catie, Moira, & Etta O’Hare

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new world has broken into ours --

All: a world in which justice does come for the poor, freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick.

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new community has been formed --

All: a community that loves and cares for all members, a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected, a place where all find a place of belonging.

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new creation has begun --

All: all that is distorted is being restored, all that is corrupted is being renewed, all that was broken is being made whole.

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, God’s new world has begun.

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

Rejoice, O pure in heart,
rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Bright youth and snow-crowned age,
both men and women, raise
on high your free, exulting song,
declare God's wondrous praise. [Refrain]

Still lift your standard high,
still chanting as you go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe. [Refrain]

At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest,
the pilgrims reach their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. [Refrain]

Praise God, who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
one God forevermore. [Refrain]

Affirmation of Faith

What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"?

That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven and will be there for our good until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.

But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?

Christ is truly human and truly God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is not absent from us for a moment.

From the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 18, Q&A 46, 47

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon

you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Square Pegs and Round Holes

“Shout to the Lord”

My Jesus my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing
Power and majesty
Praise to the King
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You

Prayers of the People

*After each petition, the 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.***

“Awesome God”

Our God is an awesome God.
He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power, and love.

Benediction

Our God is an awesome God.