



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Order of Worship

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 30th, 2020

Greetings and Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Friends of God, believe this –
God loved the world,
God loves the world,
we are the beloved!

**May the truth of this great love story,
shine through our worship today,
and renew our sense of calling.**

So come, with your tiredness,
your frustrations and your discouragements;
come with your doubts, your fears,
and your longings;
come, to discover yet again
how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.

**Come, in friendship to God
and to each other,
and in friendship to the world,
to listen for God's Word to us,
to offer our prayers,
and to renew our calling.**

**Friends of God,
let us worship!**

Hymn #473

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

DIX

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

Refrain

Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild. *(to refrain)*

For Thy Church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love. *(to refrain)*

Prayer for New Beginnings

Almighty God,
you have called your servants
to make promises before you;
now enable us to keep our vows
that we may remain steadfast in faith
and fruitful in every good work.
Bless this church and bless our new pastor, Isaac,
and our new organist for this season, Ryan,
to whom the care of your people
in this church is now committed.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on them,
On the People of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church,
that our mutual ministry may be served
with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage.
Grant us the spirit of power and love
and of a sound mind.
Make our ministry a means of a wakening the careless,
strengthening the faithful,
comforting the afflicted,
and building up your church.
Guard us against the snares of temptation
that we may be kept pure in heart,
fervent in spirit,
and valiant against evil.
And at the last, by your grace,
receive us in your eternal home,
where, with you and the Holy Spirit,
Christ reigns in glory,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Response

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”
ST. ANNE

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 3:1-16

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Interview with Isaac Toney-Schmitt

"Flood"

Rain rain on my face
Hasn't stopped raining for days
My world is a flood
Slowly I've become one with the mud

Refrain

But if I can't swim
After forty days
And my mind is crushed
By the crashing waves
Lift me up so high
That I cannot fall
Lift me oh woh

Lift me up
When I'm falling
Lift me up
When I'm weak and I'm dying
Lift me up
I need You to hold me

Lift me up
And keep me from drowning again
Downpour on my soul
Splashing in the ocean
I'm losing control
Dark sky all around
Can't feel my feet
Touching the ground (*to refrain*)

Prayers of the People

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

The 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.

Hymn #525

"Here I Am, Lord"

HERE I AM, LORD

I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky,
I Have Heard My People Cry.
All Who Dwell In Dark And Sin,
My Hand Will Save.
I Who Made The Stars Of Night,
I Will Make Their Darkness Bright.
Who Will Bear My Light To Them?
Whom Shall I Send?

Refrain

Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

I, The Lord Of Snow And Rain,
I Have Borne My People's Pain.
I Have Wept For Love Of Them, They Turn Away.
I Will Break Their Hearts Of Stone,
Give Them Hearts For Love Alone.
I Will Speak My Word To Them
Whom Shall I Send? (*to refrain*)

Benediction

Announcements for August 30th

Good morning, grace, mercy, and peace in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Welcome to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us this day. During this season we aim to bring the church home to you, whether you here in the Atlanta metro area or if you are on the other side of the country, we long to connect with you. Each day we offer Mount Vernon Moments on our Facebook page and every Tuesday we hold our phone devotionals at 2pm. Adult Sunday School classes meet each Sunday morning and our Small Groups will return next month for their fall gatherings. If you would like to learn more, please contact the church office and they will connect you with one of our facilitators.

As I have stated throughout the pandemic, we continue to stay apprised of the fluid health situation. We have held a few in-person outdoor gatherings, and are continuing to put together protocols that will allow groups to gather formally on campus. In the meantime, please continue to utilize our online offerings or please contact myself or Isaac.

Next week, you'll only hear from Isaac as he will preach and lead worship. The following Sunday, September 13th, Isaac and I will begin our fall sermon series, Living the Questions. During this series, we will examine the questions that have arisen during this pandemic and wonder together where is God in this season defined by uncertainty and pain, but also hope in unexpected places. If you have a question you would like Isaac or me to explore, please send me an email.

We want to continue to thank you at this time. Just in the last week, we have received another \$10,000 toward the Covid-19 relief fund. To date, we have received more than \$54,000 dollars and have dispersed more than \$45,000 of those dollars to partner organizations. Thank you for your continued generosity of this fund. Please also consider giving to the church at this time. Through your benevolence, we can continue in our mission to serve Christ and neighbor through vibrant worship, Christian Education, and missional outreach. If you would like to give, please head over to the giving page on our church website.

Finally, let us extend our Christian concerns and our prayers to the world, as together we continue to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. We pray for those who are hurting and lamenting, as well as those strained emotionally from this crisis. We also pray for those we know. Please be in prayer for the family of Charlie Gray. His newborn grandson, Will, remains in a Louisiana NICU and is undergoing further tests. Please also be in prayer for members, Louise Lord, Kirk Pumphrey, Julie Chesnutt, and Inez Cole. We also pray for those requests that go unnamed as well as those beyond our walls: our schools, teachers, parents, and health care workers. Finally, we pray for the family of Jacob Blake and the people of Kenosha, Wisconsin. Let us continue to listen, to learn, to pray, and to work for peace. May we as the church acknowledge our need to repent as well our hope to witness the fullness of life for our black brothers and sisters.

Now in that spirit, let us prepare our hearts to worship God...