



## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Outdoor Order of Worship

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Welcome & Announcements**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Prayer of the Day**

**Call to Worship**

Isaac Toney-Schmitt

We are here!

**Christ is Alive!**

We will worship!

**With those in body, with those in spirit.**

We will eat the bread of God together.

**For it comes from heaven and gives life to the world!**

### **“Gather Us In”**

Here in this place new light is streaming  
Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame  
Call to us now and we shall awaken  
We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery  
We are the old who yearn for your face  
We have been sung throughout all of history  
Called to be light to the whole human race  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly  
Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water  
Here we will take the bread of new birth  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion  
Give us to eat the bread that is you  
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

## Prayer of Hope

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Gracious God, before you are 75 chairs, some are filled by physical presence, others are filled by the presence of your Holy Spirit. We come before you not as a complete body, but a body connected in our love for you and your Son, Jesus Christ. Today we celebrate this small step. A chance to see one another, a chance to welcome, to greet, and to gather in our common belief. We hope this is the first of many steps. Steps that will grow louder until we all can march into your sanctuary together and ring forth with the choirs of angels of your glory and righteousness. Until then, may we be vigilant. Let us honor our neighbor. Let us honor the stranger. Let us support the hurting. Let us take our steps intently. Our time has been shattered this year, so let us seek your clock, and may you show us that your timing is timeless, for no matter how soon or how long, we know you are near, far, and at all points in between. To God be the Glory. Amen.

## Response

### “Glory to God”

*Gloria Patri*

Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory in the Highest,  
Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Alleluia, Alleluia

## Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

## Scripture

John 6: 1-11, 22, 24-26, 30, 32-34

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?’ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, ‘Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.’ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?’ Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted... The next day when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## Homily

*Heaven in the Courtyard*

**“As the Deer”**

As the deer pants for the water  
So my soul longs after You  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You

*Refrain*

You alone are my strength my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You

I want You more than gold or silver  
Only You can satisfy  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You

*Refrain*

You alone are my strength my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You

**Affirmation of Faith (*The Apostles' Creed*)**

Isaac Toney-Schmitt

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Rev. Abernethy & Mr. Toney-Schmitt

**Invitation to the Table**

**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Prayer Over the Elements, Prayers of Intercessions, Concluding with 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.

**Post Communion Prayer**

**“Siyahamba”**

We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching—Ooo,  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching—Ooo,  
We are marching in the light of God.

**Benediction & Offering**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Leading Today’s Worship Service**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Pastor & Head of Staff

Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor of Faith Formation

Matthias Young, Director of Music

Ryan Sawyer, Organist Apprentice

# MVPC Happenings....



**WELCOME BACK!** We are excited to see you back on our campus. Please be assured we are taking all measures to follow the CDC guidelines and ask that you wear a mask. Reservations are required by Sat. evenings at 6:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, we will cancel the outdoor service and record the service to post on our website. While here, please scan the QR codes using the camera on your smartphone to access the bulletin and also giving your tithes. Here are our next outdoor services:

October 18: Celebration of Confirmands

November 1: Isaac's Ordination and Installation

November 15: Stewardship Sunday & Congregational Meeting to Elect Church Officers

**Small Groups:** Small groups began September 27 but it's not too late to join! We will focus on topics relating to racial reconciliation. Please reach out to David Hill or contact the church office to learn more about these offerings or to join a group.

**Youth Group:** Meet in person at Gailey Hall on Sundays from 5-6:00 p.m. Masks required!

**Sunday School:** The Discovery class meets Sundays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

**Weekly Ways to Connect:** Tuesday Phone Devotional @ 2:00 p.m., Daily Mount Vernon Moments on Facebook, Children's Sunday School with Carrie Southard via Zoom.

**Presbyterian Women:** In October the Day Circle will meet on the 13th and the Sunday Circle will meet on the 11th. Pat Davis will teach Lesson 5: *Sixth Word: Don't Kill Each Other from Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. The Book Circle will meet on the 9th and review *A Fire Sparkling* by Julianne Maclean.

**Outreach:** Community Assistance Center (CAC) has provided much needed support to CAC's Emergency Response Plan to meet the increased needs for rent assistance and food for the most vulnerable families and individuals in our local neighborhood. Thank you for your generous support through these challenging times and in the months ahead.

**Family Promise:** Those families who graduate from the program continue to receive support to move into rental housing and begin building from homelessness to thriving with the help of several grants. This week the Atlanta Braves Foundation Community Grant awarded Family Promise of North Fulton Dekalb \$5,000! We are so grateful for this partnership.

**Stewardship:** Thank you for your continued support for the COVID19 and general fund. Also, November is Stewardship Month, so be in prayer how you can help support the church in 2021.

**Liturgists Needed:** Please contact Barrett if your are willing to read scripture during our online services.

October 4, 2020

**The Worship Ministry Team** is looking for volunteers to serve as Funeral/Memorial Service Coordinators. For questions or more info, contact Malinda Holmes [malinda128.holmes@gmail.com](mailto:malinda128.holmes@gmail.com) or Beppie Lever [beppielever@earthlink.net](mailto:beppielever@earthlink.net) if you are interested.

**Worship Committee** has been hard at work planning these outdoor services. Please thank them if you see any of them.

**The MVPC Stephen Ministry:** Do Stephen Ministers feel the angst, loneliness, tiredness of the Pandemic? Yes, we do, but, gratefully, the training we have had has given us multiple ways to stay uplifted and to help others. We are here to share those strategies and God's comforting word and presence with you. Please refer yourself or tell us of those in our community who need us by calling Barrett, Isaac, or Pat Barte, Stephen Leader.

**Do you feel a need for prayer?** Have our Prayer Vine pray for you! Email your requests to [prayerrequests@mvpchurch.org](mailto:prayerrequests@mvpchurch.org) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

**2020-2021 Directory:** We are in the process of updating the directory. If you have any updates to your contact information, please let the office know ASAP. The directory is coming soon.

**Prayer Concerns:** Eleanor Brazell, Carlton & Joy Carden; Sarah Chalpan; Julie Chesnutt; Inez Cole; Gene Elder & family; Kirk Pumphrey; Elizabeth Small

### Financial Update

<b>Sept. 24-30</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
Pledge Member Giving	\$5,210	\$308,997	\$439,217
Non-Pledge Member Giving	\$210	\$ 39,039	\$80,000
2020 Prepaid Pledges	\$0	\$ 21,983	\$21,983
Loose Offering	\$100	\$ 15,933	\$15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,520</b>	<b>\$385,952</b>	<b>\$556,200</b>

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings*, weekly email, or Good News, please email them to Terri Clayton, [terri@mvpchurch.org](mailto:terri@mvpchurch.org).