



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Order of Worship

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

October 25th, 2020

Greetings and Welcome

Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Nathan, Beth, & Evelyn Abernethy

The Church Reformed, Always Being Reformed, According to the Word of God

For 503 years, the Church has declared that as our mission.

What started as 95 theses written by Martin Luther,

Has inspired the people across the world,

To live by faith alone,

Scripture alone,

And grace alone.

Let us worship God!

Hymn #260

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

EIN’ FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;

Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;

His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,

On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;

Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God’s own choosing:

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;

Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,

And He must win the battle.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;

The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;

The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still,

His kingdom is forever.

Prayer of Confession

Nathan & Beth Abernethy

God of Wisdom, you show us what we should solely focus on, yet too often we focus solely on that which is not important, the false god that promises abundance and leaves us empty. You tell us to rest solely on faith in you alone, but we put our faith in the certainty of others. You tell us to live by grace alone, but the world tells us to extend grace only when we get something in return. You tell us to breathe in your Word and to live by scripture alone, but we focus on the gospel of newsfeeds and petty gossip. Give the strength to embody the reformational cries. Grant us the focus to ignore the noise and live by sola scriptura, sola fide, and sola gratia. For the world longs for a faith not determined by a ballot box, a grace not offered according to who one voted for, and a scripture not captive to our temptations, but captive solely to the love of Jesus Christ...

Assurance of Pardon

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

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

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

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Scripture

Romans 7:13-25

Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. 15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

*Living the Questions:
Evil and the Pandemic*

Hymn #474

“O Splendor of God's Glory Bright”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

O splendor of God's glory bright,
From light eternal bringing light;
Thou light of life, light's living spring,
True day, all days illumining.

Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

O Lord, with each returning morn
Thine image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Savior and our God in Thee!

Prayers of the People

Isaac Toney-Schmitt

*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.

"Light the Fire"

I stand to praise you
But I fall to my knees
My spirit is willing
But my flesh is so weak

Refrain

So light the fire in my soul
Fan the flame make me whole
Lord you know where I've been
So light the fire in my heart again

I feel your arms around me
As the power of your healing begins
Your spirit runs through me
Like a mighty rushing wind (*to refrain*)

Benediction

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Stewardship Moment

Darrell Jones

Announcements Transcript

Welcome

Peace be with you, and welcome to worship at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. It is always a gift to gather together and listen out for God all around us, and we are excited you've chosen to be with us this morning. If you are watching this service on our website, please take a moment to sign our virtual friendship pad. We look forward to connecting with you as we continue to bring the church home.

Outdoor Worship

We've now enjoyed two wonderful outdoor worship services in our courtyard, and more are on the way. Next Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate my ordination and installation; and November 15 we will wrap up our stewardship campaign with dedication Sunday. Additionally, our outdoor worship services will continue into the month of December, with plans for services on December 6th and December 20th. The sign ups for all of these services are up on our website, or simply call the church office to reserve a spot.

Stewardship

We continue to celebrate your generosity in giving toward our Covid-19 relief fund as well as the church's general fund. Your ongoing benevolence carries the vision and mission of Mt. Vernon forward and encourages us all to be creative with church in this season.

Stephen Ministry

We want to support you during this difficult season, which is why I want to lift up our Stephen Ministry at Mount Vernon. Stephen Ministers are lay leaders who have undergone many hours of training to provide confidential, one-on-one care to those experiencing a difficult moment in their life. If you or someone you know is struggling to cope with the pandemic, experiencing a loss of any kind, or would benefit from a supporting relationship, please reach out. Mt Vernon is blessed with multiple Stephen Ministers who are ready and available to walk alongside. If you're interested, reach out to our Stephen Ministry coordinator Pat Bartee, or Barrett or me.

Prayer Concerns

Finally, let us continue to be in prayer for all those affected by the pandemic, thinking specifically of those on front lines of prevention. We continue to pray with fellow members Eleanor Brazell, Elizabeth Small, Julie Chestnutt, Kirk Pumphrey, Barbara Hughes, and the family of Clarice Elder. In the spirit of prayer, let us prepare our hearts to worship God.