



## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Order of Worship  
Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### — GATHERING —

**Welcome & Announcements**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Stewardship Moment**

Bruce & Wendy Hagenau

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Call to Worship**

Larry, Joyce, Nicholas, and Nathan Peji

Jesus taught us to love, and he said,

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**We are two. We are three. We are one.**

Jesus healed the sick, and he said that where any number are gathered...

**We are four. We are five. We are one.**

Jesus called the world to work for justice.

**We are thousands. We are millions. We are one.**

Jesus came to show us that we are not alone.

**We are together. We are connected. We are one.**

**Hymn #485**

**“To God Be the Glory”**

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY**

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Refrain*

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,

And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

But purer, and higher, and greater will be

Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *(to refrain)*

**Prayer of Confession**

Larry, Joyce, Nicholas, and Nathan Peji

Lord of Hope

Bringer of Change and New Life

Have mercy

Draw near

Finish your good and generous work

Release us from  
the chains of this moment, born of imprisoned years  
the distractions and false calls of those who cannot help  
the apathy keeping us from seeing, speaking, and caring  
the smallness of your Kingdom stealing our courage to try  
the slowness of your Kingdom chipping away at our enduring

We believe, help our unbelief  
Raise us from our comas to stand with you  
Release our petrified voices  
Deliver us of our demons

You have made us new  
You are making us new  
You are making all things new  
Amen

### **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.

— **THE WORD** —

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### **Scripture**

Mark 9:14-29

14 When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. 15 When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. 16 He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” 17 Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; 18 and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” 19 He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” 20 And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. 22 It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.”

23 Jesus said to him, "If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!" 26 After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. 28 When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" 29 He said to them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."

**Sermon**

*Living the Questions:  
Where is Hope in the Pandemic?*

**Special Music**

"O God Have Mercy"  
Antoine Jefferson, Bass

— RESPONSE —

**Prayers of the People**

Rev. 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.

— SENDING —

"You're Worthy of My Praise"

I will worship  
With all of my heart  
I will praise You  
With all of my strength

I will seek You  
All of my days  
I will follow  
All of Your ways

*Refrain*

I will give You all my worship  
I will give You all my praise  
You alone I long to worship  
You alone are worthy of my praise

I will bow down  
And hail You as King  
I will serve You  
Give You everything

I will lift up  
My eyes to Your throne  
I will trust You  
Trust You alone (*to refrain*)

**Benediction**

Andrea Brantley

**Leading Today's Worship Service**

**Rev. Barrett Abernethy:** Pastor & Head of Staff

**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt:** Associate Pastor of Faith Formation

**Matthias Young:** Director of Music

**Ryan Sawyer:** Organist Apprentice

**Antoine Jefferson:** Bass Soloist

**Liturgists**

Larry, Joyce, Nicholas, and Nathan Peji

## Announcements Transcript

Good morning! Grace, mercy, and peace in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Welcome to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us this day. Please take a moment if you are watching on our website to fill out our virtual friendship pad below so we can know who you are, especially if you are a first time or recurring visitor and would like to know more about us.

Today, as you can see we are worshipping online, but next Sunday, November 15th, weather permitting, we will once again worship on the church lawn, and friends it will be a full day.

First, it will be Stewardship Sunday, so if you are planning to worship with us in-person, please go to our website to sign-up. We are welcoming up to 125 people to worship. We ask that you wear masks and socially distant at all times. Since it is Stewardship, we hope you will prayerfully consider giving a pledge. You should have received a card in the mail last week. If you did not, or forget your card, we will have extras at the service. Immediately following worship, we will have a called Congregational Meeting to elect church officers for the upcoming year. The nominees, whom we have shared during prior services and through other platforms are: Ben Barber, David Barclift, Joy Carden, and Charlie Gray, Angie Hawthorne, and Amy Kiley.

Following the congregational meeting if you are unable to attend worship or if you just don't feel comfortable meeting for in-person gathering we will hold a Tithing-Thru, in front of Gailey Hall. Elder Wit Truitt will be on hand to receive your pledge and Elders Carol Beckman and Brent Schweiger will be around to pick up food items to benefit Stirred Up Ministries which is our mission partner for the month of November.

Next, (I told you there was a lot), we are going ahead and prepping the church sanctuary for the Season of Advent, in fact, you can see our Christmas tree just off to the side... We will allow one family at a time to come in, decorate and hang Chrismons, as well as distribute Advent educational materials for our children. We might even have music in the courtyard as you await entry into the sanctuary!

Lastly, your church Session will meet at 3pm via Zoom. Whew! I am tired just telling you all of that. One other worshipping opportunity will also happen outdoors this Wednesday at 5pm. Weather permitting, we will hold our monthly Taize service via livestream, but we will also allow up to 15 people to join us in person. This service will take place by the fireplace at Gailey Hall. Please sign-up on our website and bring your lawn chairs for this short 30 minute service of song, scripture, and stillness.

Finally, let us be in prayer for this country and for its political and civic leaders, for those who are still suffering from the pandemic. We pray for those beyond our church walls as well as within. We continue to think of Eleanor Brazell, Minnie Robinson (who's father Lorenzo Small died last Sunday), Barbara Bruce, Elizabeth Small, and many others who go unnamed.