



## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Outdoor Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### — GATHERING —

**Welcome & Announcements**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Ben, Lisa, Bryce, and Kyle Cumming

Advent is a time when the days are short and the nights are long. That is why the song of Zechariah shines in this season. He declares that his son, John, will come before the one who will “give light to those who sit in darkness,” by sharing the knowledge of salvation to the people. As Christians, the ones who follow Christ, we believe that knowledge in him proclaims peace, and we believe it brightens the whole world.

Let us celebrate this song by lighting the second candle with the **peace** of Christ.

**Hymn**

**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Refining God,  
it is not easy for us to admit we are not a blameless people.  
We trust the promises of politicians,  
but have trouble believing the ones you have made.  
We find ourselves captive to emotions and lusts which stun us,  
but doubt you can save us.  
We prefer the shadowy streets of the world,  
rather than walking in your Light.

Forgive us, Faithful One.  
May the Light of Christ show us your way;  
may the Love of Christ overflow from our lives to others;  
may the Life of Christ be our model as we seek to be your people...(Silent Confession)...Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

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

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

### **Response**

**“Glory to God”**

*Gloria Patri*

Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory in the highest.  
Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

## — THE WORD —

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### **Scripture**

Luke 1:67-79

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior[a] for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon[b] us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

### **Homily**

*Songs of Advent: The Song of Zechariah*

### **Special Music**

**“Song of Zechariah”**

Grace Rivord, Soprano

— RESPONSE —

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

Rev. Isaac 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**

— SENDING —

**Hymn**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *(to refrain)*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *(to refrain)*

**Benediction & Offering**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**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

**Grace Rivord:** Soprano Soloist

# 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:

December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent, Luke 2:29-32, "The Song of Simeon"

December 24: Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m., Luke 2:1-7, "Room in the Inn"

*\*Please go ahead and sign-up if you are a church member and planning on coming on Christmas Eve so we can discern if we need to setup for a second service which would tentatively take place on December 23 at 4:30 p.m.\**

**Advent Sermon Series:** "Celebrating the 4 Songs of Advent"

**Stewardship:** Thank you to everyone who has submitted your 2021 pledge cards. If you missed the chance to turn yours in at the service on Nov. 15, we encourage you to submit your pledge by filling out the form on our website, mail your pledge in the envelope provided, or email [Yvonne@mvpchurch.org](mailto:Yvonne@mvpchurch.org) by **December 13**.

**Longest Night Service:** A service of hope in a time of lament led by Barrett, Isaac and Christiana Toney-Schmitt will be **December 21** at 6:00 p.m. via livestream.

**Taize Outdoor Service:** Our next service is **December 9** at 5:00 p.m. at Gailey Hall. Reservations on our website are required and space is limited to 15.

**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.

**Outreach Tree for the Homeless:** Please bring warm winter clothing and grooming products to decorate the Outreach Tree in the hallway outside the office. Need gloves, hats, scarves, socks, coats/jackets, flannel shirts, sweatpants, hoodies, sturdy shoes, sneakers, rainwear, and blankets.

**Presbyterian Women:** Join us for a Presbyterian Women Christmas Celebration on December 8 at 10 a.m. via Zoom with your favorite Christmas ornament. Please let Malinda Holmes know that you will be attending so she can send you the link. Please respond by Sat., December 5.

**Family Promise:** Our next week of support is December 20-27 at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church. SignUp Genius is coming.

**Office Hours with the Pastors** are by appointment only. Contact Barrett for Sunday, 3-5:00 p.m. and Thursday, 8-10:00 a.m. Contact Isaac for Tuesday, 8-10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, noon-2:00 p.m.

**December 6, 2020**

**Information Center** is stocked with the current issues of the Upper Room, These Days, Good News, and much more!

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

**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 December Communion Offering** is new, unwrapped toys and clothing for the children at the International Women's House, a shelter for abused refugee and immigrant women and their children. Please bring all donations to the church office any time before **December 18**.

**The MVPC Stephen Ministry:** Advent season reminds us of preparedness, reflection, gratefulness, gifting, and compassion. It is a beautiful time of remembrance of God's great gift to us, His Son. If you need the loving attention of trained, caring people in our church as you maneuver dark times in this season when others are joyous, a Stephen Minister is just a phone call or email away. Please reach out to Barrett, Isaac, or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.

**2020-2021 Directory** is now available. Please pick one up today at the check-in table or contact the office if you need one mailed to you.

**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.

**Prayer Concerns:** Catherine Bathgate upon the death of her son, Frank; Eleanor Brazell; Barbara Bruce; Julie Chesnutt; Barbara Hughes; Kirk Pumphrey; family of Chet Seiple, Jr. on his death 11/29; Elizabeth Small, family of Anmadri Badenhorst and other friends and loved ones afflicted with the Coronavirus.

**Attendance:** 11/15 76 outdoor  
11/22 95 online  
11/29 97 online

## Financial Update

November 25-30	Actual	Actual YTD	2020 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$2,195	\$371,836	\$439,217
Non-Pledge Member Giving	\$0	\$ 66,478	\$80,000
2020 Prepaid Pledges	\$0	\$ 21,983	\$21,983
Loose Offering	\$40	\$ 17,314	\$15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,235</b>	<b>\$477,611</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).