



## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

Christmas Eve

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### — GATHERING —

#### Introit

#### “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Atlanta Concert Band Quartet

##### ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels!

##### *Refrain*

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing! (*to refrain*)

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all  
Glory in the highest! (*to refrain*)

#### Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Christmas is the fulfillment of hope, peace, joy, and love, but it does not exhaust who Immanuel is. For God is with us this night, Alleluia! Let us join together in the unending promises that resides in hope, peace, joy, and love, to light the candle that never dies, for the one who comes this night is the light of the world! Let us light the Christ candle and worship God!

#### Hymn

#### “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Atlanta Concert Band Quartet

##### MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain*

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time, behold Him come,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel. *(to refrain)*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die.  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth. *(to refrain)*

**Litany for Christmas**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

**Amen!**

**Special Music**

**"O Holy Night"  
Matthias Young, Tenor**

— THE WORD —

**Moment for the Children**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Scripture**

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Homily**

*Room in the Inn*

**Hymn**

**“The First Nowell”  
THE FIRST NOWELL**

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. *(to refrain)*

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood our life hath bought. *(to refrain)*

— RESPONSE —

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

Rev. Abernethy & Rev. 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**

### **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, Words of Institution, 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.

### **Communion of the People**

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

#### **— SENDING —**

### **Hymn**

#### **"Silent Night, Holy Night"**

##### **STILLE NACHT**

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and Child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

## **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

### **Brass Quartet**

John Arnold - Trumpet

David Stoutamire - Trumpet

Joe Flanders - Trombone

John Hibbard - Tuba

*Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church wishes you a*



## MVPC Happenings....

**Welcome to our Christmas Eve Service - 2020 style!** Please be assured we are taking all measures to follow the CDC guidelines and ask that you wear a mask. 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:

January 24: Ordination & Installation of Church Officers, John 1:43-51,  
"Come and See"

For those worshipping in your car, tune into FM 90.5 to hear the service.

There are baggies including the communion kits and candles. If you did not receive one, flash your lights and someone will bring them to you.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted your 2021 pledge cards. It's not too late to submit your pledge. We encourage you to submit your pledge by filling out the form on our website, mail your pledge in the envelope that was in the mailing, or email [Yvonne@mvpchurch.org](mailto:Yvonne@mvpchurch.org).

You can turn in your offering for Covid19 or general fund in the black boxes at the check-in table, online, or mail it to the church.

Church office is closed December 24 & 25, December 31 & January 1, 2021.

**Prayer Concerns:** Carol Beckman; Eleanor Brazell; Barbara Bruce; Julie Chesnutt; Barbara Hughes; Corny Laube; Kirk Pumphrey; Vivien Rothwell; Elizabeth Small; family of Brian and Sarah (daughter of John & Patricia Hibbard) and other friends and loved ones afflicted with the Coronavirus.

