



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 7th, 2021

— GATHERING —

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Dee Bradford-Smith

We come exhausted.

We come weary.

We come longing to know.

We come longing to hear.

The Lord is everlasting.

The Creator of the ends of the earth.

So let us wait patiently.

Let us be renewed. Let us soar with the eagle. Let us walk and not be weary. Let us run and not faint.

Let us worship God.

Hymn

“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,

The God of all creation,

The God of power, the God of love,

The God of our salvation;

With healing balm my soul is filled,

And every faithless murmur stilled:

To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,

But through all grief distressing,

An ever present help and stay,

Our peace and joy and blessing;

As with a mother's tender hand,

God gently leads the chosen band:

To God all praise and glory!

Thus, all my gladsome way along,

I sing aloud Thy praises

That all may hear the grateful song

My voice unwearied raises.

Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,

Both soul and body bear your part:

To God all praise and glory!

Prayer of Confession

Everlasting God, we know how easy it is to forget your presence and power in our lives. Focused on our ubiquitous screens, we do not pay attention to the night sky and the stars that shine. Surrounded by the sounds of anger, violence, and hate, we have trouble listening to your whispers of hope and grace. Thinking that Scripture is filled only with stories, we cannot understand your truth which can change our lives. Forgive us. There is no one who can hold a candle to you when it comes to mercy and hope. Lift us to our feet so we may walk with you; fill us with your strength so we may serve your people; touch us with your healing so we may proclaim to everyone the Good News that has come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior...Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
23 who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
25 To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
29 He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
30 Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Sermon

The Story of Exile

Hymn

“I’ll Praise My Maker”

OLD 113TH

I’ll praise my Maker while I’ve breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne’er be past
While life, and thought, and being last,
Or immortality endures.

The Lord pours eyesight on the blind;
The Lord supports the fainting mind
And send the laboring conscience peace.
God helps the stranger in distress,
The widowed and the parentless,
And grants the prisoner sweet release.

I’ll praise my Maker while I’ve breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne’er be past
While life and thought and being last,
Or immortality endures.

— RESPONSE —

Affirmation of Faith (*The Apostles' Creed*)

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 & *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.

Words of Institution & Communion of the People

Post Communion Prayer

— SENDING —

Song

“Fly Like Eagles”

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

It's been told from the beginning.

It is he who sits above the earth

Who stretches out the heavens.

Who brings princes to naught,

Who makes the rulers of earth as nothing.

Scarcely planted, scarcely sown—

And they will wither.

Have you not known? Have you not heard

Of the Creator of the ends of the earth?

Lift up your eyes on high.
See the greatness of his might!

Spread your wings and fly like eagles!
Lift your eyes on high.
Renew your strength and fly like eagles!

Wait on the Lord and see,
Wait on the Lord and you will

Spread your wings and fly like eagles!
Lift your eyes on high.
Renew your strength and fly like eagles!

Benediction

Announcements

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 today. We hope you will stay a little later today as following the worship service the Presbyterian Women will present their annual Mission Program. This brief 10 minute program will focus on CAC and their outgoing CEO, Tamara Carrera.

This coming week your Worship Ministry Team, who have also served as our Covid-19 response team, will meet to discuss our future worship plans. We look forward next week to sharing with you those plans and will keep you updated on any pertinent details.

Speaking of next week, this coming Wednesday at 6pm we will hold our monthly Taize service, which will be combined with our Burning of the Palms as we prepare for the Lenten Season. If you would like to join us for the outdoor gathering by the fire at Gailey Hall, please sign-up on our website. There is a limit of 15 people.

Other events are happening in the life of the church: next Sunday will be Valentine's for many of you, but here at the church we will be celebrating the Transfiguration of the Lord. So join us online atop the mountain for that service. The following Wednesday, Feb. 17th from 5:30-6:30pm will be our drive-thru pancake supper and Ash Wednesday service. Please sign-up for this event as we will only have so many pancake plates available. Look for a video on social media about how this service and meal will work in the time of Covid. And then, on February 21st, our Youth will lead worship for an online Youth Sunday service. They are working hard to craft this service around their own Six Word Stories of Faith, stories that, by the way, we encourage you to send to me at the email address below.

Finally, please be in prayer for so many affiliated with our church battling the effects and limitations of the pandemic. Unfortunately, our Associate Pastor, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt was exposed to COVID-19 and thus will be quarantining for the next several days. As an aside, Youth Group will happen tonight and it will be led by Jon Barber and myself from 4-5pm as we will prepare for Youth Sunday.

Let us also be in prayer with others in our community: Eleanor Brazell, Corny Laube, Barbara Hughes, Kirk Pumphrey and others connected with our church family at this time. And now, in a prayerful spirit, let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.