



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14th, 2021

— GATHERING —

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Helen Johnson

Come, those of you who celebrate faith:

with a sense of humor

with surprise and wonderment

with doubt

when God tells you "No."

Come those of you who are thankful that:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Hymn

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(to refrain)*

Prayer of Hope

Holy Mystery, sometimes you speak to us in ways we do not understand. We know that your ways are not our ways, and we give thanks that you allow us space to doubt, to wonder, to ask questions, and to be honest. Often, we are told these doubts and questions are a result of our flaws and sinful nature, but you help us to see that this is part of our journey to wholeness with you. Renew this spirit within us. Allow us to laugh with one another, allow us to celebrate the opportunities to grow with each other and with you, and compel us to keep wondering, keep asking, and keep returning here, to seek your assurance. In your wondrous name, we pray with our hearts and minds afresh. Amen.

Response**“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

AZMON

O for a thousand tongues to sing
 My dear Redeemer’s praise,
 The glories of my God and King,
 The triumphs of God’s grace!

— THE WORD —**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Scripture

Matthew 13:10-17

Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” 11 He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 13 The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’ 14 With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

‘You will indeed listen, but never understand,
 and you will indeed look, but never perceive.
 15 For this people’s heart has grown dull,
 and their ears are hard of hearing,
 and they have shut their eyes;
 so that they might not look with their eyes,
 and listen with their ears,
 and understand with their heart and turn—
 and I would heal them.’

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

Sermon*Great Is the Mystery of Faith***Hymn****“Open My Eyes That I May See”**

OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, that I may see
 Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
 Place in my hands the wonderful key
 That shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain

Silently now I wait for Thee,
 Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
 Open my eyes (ears, heart), illumine me,
 Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear. (*to refrain*)

Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share. (*to refrain*)

— RESPONSE —

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

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 —

Song

"Flood"

Rain rain on my face
Hasn't stopped raining for days
My world is a flood
Slowly I've become one with the mud

Refrain

But if I can't swim
After forty days
And my mind is crushed
By the crashing waves
Lift me up so high
That I cannot fall
Lift me oh woh

Lift me up
When I'm falling
Lift me up
When I'm weak and I'm dying
Lift me up
I need You to hold me
Lift me up
And keep me from drowning again

Downpour on my soul
Splashing in the ocean
I'm losing control

Dark sky all around
Can't feel my feet
Touching the ground (*to refrain*)

Benediction

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

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 you have chosen to worship with us today.

Fellowship Zoom Today

Before I begin, I want to encourage you if you are watching this Sunday morning to join us at noon today for a time of Fellowship via Zoom. You should receive a link to this Zoom room in your email, but if you did not receive it, please contact me now, and I will send you the link. See you soon!

Worship Updates For April and Beyond

Now, earlier this week your Worship Ministry Team held their monthly meeting and for the month of April we will worship in-person on Easter Sunday, April 4th at 7am and 11am in the Courtyard. Feel free to go online right now and sign-up for that service. On March 21st, we will welcome visitors to sign-up as well for these services.

We will also worship on Sunday, April 18th at 11am.

On Sunday April 11th and April 25th we will continue to meet online right here at mvpchurch.org. Currently, we are looking for ushers and other church members who would like to help setup our outdoor services. If we can get enough of you to support this effort, we will potentially be able to meet in person each week starting in May. If you would like to help out, please reach out to Wendy Hagenau, Dale Morine, or Amy Kiley.

Now I know you may be wondering, when will we return to indoor worship. As of now, we still don't know and to be honest, we are not in any rush. It's spring and it is beautiful outside and we are willing to celebrate God's creation. We believe we are called to be a part of the one body of Christ and we will live into that image to best of our ability.

Worship Updates for March

Between now and April, however, we will return to outdoor, in-person worship next Sunday, March 21st and Palm Sunday, March 28th. These services will take place at 11am on our church courtyard. Next Sunday following worship we will hold our Annual Meeting as well as start our Godly Play children's curriculum. We look forward to seeing you.

Holy Week Plans

Also, as we prepare for the conclusion of Lent with Holy Week. We at the church already have a great deal planned.

On Monday-Wednesday: Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt and his wife, Christina, along with myself will provide a short devotional that will appear on our various platforms each day at noon.

On Thursday at 6pm we will hold a Maundy Thursday Drive-In Service on the church parking lot.

And on Good Friday, the church will be open from 10am-7pm as we offer you the opportunity to walk through the sanctuary and observe the 12 Stations of the Cross.

Prayer Concerns

Finally, let us continue to be in prayer as we mark one year of this pandemic. Let us pray for the world, country, and state, along with political leaders, healthcare workers, teachers, and everyone else who has bonded together so we could survive. We celebrate the triumph of the human spirit and we lament the loss of so many. May we here at Mount Vernon continue to be moved to listen, to pray, and to serve.

And now in that spirit, let us prepare our hearts to worship God...