



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Outdoor Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21st, 2021

— GATHERING —

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

One: Bring our stories, our experiences, our memories, and our dreams;

All: Gather our neighbors, our family, our friends, and even our pets.

One: Welcome the invitation to rest alongside one another and praise God's goodness!

All: Stir our hearts with God's presence in this courtyard!

One: Let us worship God!

Morning Song

"Morning Has Broken"

BUNESSAN

Morning has broken Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall Sunlit from Heaven,
Like the first dewfall On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness Where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's re-creation Of the new day!

Prayer of Confession

(from Psalm 32: 3-5)

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of the summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Assurance of Pardon

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

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Response

“Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us”

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Passing of the Peace

(We invite you to greet one another in a sacredly-distant fashion. Children may go to Godly Play.)

— **THE WORD** —

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Scripture

Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. 12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; 14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. 15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” 16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” 17 And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

Sermon

Dreaming

Hymn

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

LOVE UNKNOWN

My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.

O who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?

Sometimes they strew His way, And His sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the way Hosannas to their King,
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath,
And for His death They thirst and cry.

Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine:
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days Could gladly spend.

— RESPONSE —

Affirmation of Faith (*The Apostles' Creed*)

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

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.

Prayers of the People & 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 —

Hymn

“The Glory of These Forty Days”
ERHALT UNS, HERR

The glory of these forty days We celebrate with songs of praise;
For Christ, by whom all things were made, Himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw The loving God who gave the law;
And to Elijah, fasting, came The steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, Delivered from the lions' might;
And John, the Bridegroom's friend, became The herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant that we like them be true, Consumed in fast and prayer with You;
Our spirits strengthen with Your grace, And give us joy to see Your face.

Annual Meeting

Benediction

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

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
Amy Kiley: Soprano Soloist

MVPC Announcements....



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 services:

- March 28: Outdoor **Palm Sunday** Worship; Celebration of Baptism of Jacqueline Nix, granddaughter of Pieter & Amanda Badenhorst
- April 4: Outdoor **Easter** Services at 7:00 & 11:00 a.m., reservations required
- April 11: Join us for the Online Holy Humor Sunday Service, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt preaching

Holy Week: 3/29-3/31 Online Devotionals at noon
4/1 Maundy Thursday Drive-In - 6:00 p.m.
4/2 Good Friday - Stations of the Cross, Sanctuary, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Annual Church Meeting: TODAY immediately following the outdoor service.

Godly Play: This interactive version of "children's church" allows our youngest saints to learn Bible stories and invites them to wonder creatively about God's amazing love. All children interested are welcomed to join our Godly Play teacher during the passing of the peace for church on the patio between the Fellowship Hall and Activities Building. Parents are welcome to join with their child.

Stations of the Cross: You are welcome to come walk through the Sanctuary to visit the stations of the cross, believed to be the last steps Jesus took. At each station there will be something to read or a short activity. Good Friday, **April 2**, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Taize Outdoor Service: Our next service is **April 14** at 7:30 p.m. at Gailey Hall. Reservations on our website are required and space is limited to 15.

Youth Group: We will meet on **today & March 28** at 5:00 p.m. at Gailey Hall. 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 on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. with Carrie Southard via Zoom.

Presbyterian Women: The Day Circle will meet on **April 13** and the Sunday Circle will meet on **April 11**. Pat Davis will teach Lesson 9: "Don't Fixate on What You Don't Have". The Book Circle will meet on **April 9** and review *Ordinary Grace* by William Krueger.

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Small Groups: Registration for our Spring Small Groups has begun! A table is set-up near the courtyard entrance area where you can check the five small group studies that will be offered and also sign-up for your group. Groups often fill-up quickly so be sure to sign-up today or at any of our outdoor worship services this month. You can also get information and sign-up by emailing David Hill. Please stop by the table as you leave worship this morning.

Stewardship: The Covid Task Force continues to meet regularly by conference call to evaluate current needs of our ministry partners and discern how to most effectively disperse the funds so generously donated by the congregation. Donations as of March 1 - \$66,385, Disbursements - \$65,471, Balance on Hand - \$914.

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 or Beppie Lever beppielever@earthlink.net if you are interested.

The MVPC Stephen Ministry: In the past two years of operation, Stephen Ministers have cared for people that are grieving, people who have lost or changed jobs, people who are frustrated by a new chronic health issue, people who are aging and lonely, people with a long road of recovery ahead after illness or a health event. We have consulted and found resources and stayed with families whose issues surpass our expertise until they have the help they need. We are becoming a seasoned, as well as a skilled, group of helpers. Please feel comfortable contacting us in your difficult times and refer your neighbors. Contact either minister or Stephen Leader, Pat Bartee, to get involved.

March Communion Offering is for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, a Presbyterian-affiliated homeless shelter serving older men and veterans, most with health issues. Most needed items needed: PineSol & Clorox, cereal, instant oatmeal, instant grits, coffee, sugar, creamer, Styrofoam bowls, lunch bags, & sandwich-size Ziplocks. Items for sack lunches: cookies, chips, granola bars, juice boxes. Also, men's deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, reading glasses, first aid supplies, single bed sheets and pillowcases.

Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pastor Office Hours: Barrett, Sundays 3-5 p.m. & Thursdays 8-10 a.m.; Isaac, Tuesdays 8-10 a.m. & Wednesdays Noon - 2 p.m. Please contact them directly to make an appointment.

Do you feel a need for prayer? Have our Prayer Vine pray for you! Email your requests to prayerrequests@mvpchurch.org or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

Prayer Concerns: Julie Chesnutt, Corny Laube, Kirk Pumphrey

Ways to Give Tithes: online, mail, or the QR code.

Attendance: 3/7 66 (outdoor), 48 (online)
3/14 70 (online)



Give Here

Financial Update

March 10-17	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$8,365	\$145,399	\$438,290
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 545	\$ 5,690	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 0	\$ 202	\$ 6,000
Total	\$ 8,910	\$151,291	\$ 514,290

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.