



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday in Lent ❖ Palm Sunday

March 28th, 2021

— GATHERING —

Prelude

“Prelude,” Op. 87, No. 7
Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Ryan Sawyer

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

The story of Palm Sunday tells of how
people removed their cloaks and spread them out
in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

**The cloak we wear every day to face the world
is both the persona we wish to present,
and our defence against the elements.**

As we come to worship may we be willing
to lay down our defenses and disguises,
at the feet of the One who sees us we really are.

**And then, set free for worship,
may we offer our praises
with open hearts and lives. Let us worship God.**

Hymn

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Matthias Young

Refrain

All glory, laud and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David’s royal Son,
Who in the Lord’s name comest,
The King and blessèd One. *(to refrain)*

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise. *(to refrain)*

Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King! *(to refrain)*

Prayer for Palm Sunday

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of the cross, tottering down the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey,
You are not the savior we expect.
Your power doesn't look like the power we want our God to have.
Your wisdom makes no sense to us.

We are happy to join the crowd, waving branches,
but not so sure we want to follow you through this Holy Week:
into the temple courts
into the upper room
into the Garden of Gethsemane
to the high priest's house,
to the assembly of elders,
to Pilate,
to Herod,
to the place of The Skull,
to the foot of the cross.

We need you to go with us on this journey.
Grant us clear vision,
Courageous hearts,
Persistent steps.

Even though we know what this week will bring, we sing:
Hosanna, hosanna.
Save us, we beseech you! Amen.

Response

"Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us"
Kyrie

Matthias Young

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

The Sacrament of Baptism

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Presentation Jacqueline Penelope Nix, daughter of Anmadri Badenhorst and Ethan Nix
Profession of Faith
Thanksgiving Over the Water
The Baptism
Sacredly Distant Laying on of Hands and Anointing

Welcome

"Baptized in Water"
BUNESSAN

Matthias Young

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation, Trusting the promise,
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
One with his rising, Freed and forgiven
Thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
Born of the Spirit, We are God's children,
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Scripture

Mark 11:1-11; 15:6-15

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” 4 They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5 some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” 6 They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9 Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.



6 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. 7 Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. 8 So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. 9 Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” 10 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. 12 Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” 13 They shouted back, “Crucify him!” 14 Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” 15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Sermon

Aim for Heaven; Delight In Earth

Hymn

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
ELLACOMBE

Matthias Young

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
'Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving,
And chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven
Ride on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children
Should on His bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!”
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice.

— RESPONSE —

Affirmation of Faith (*The Apostles' Creed*)

Rev. Isaac 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

Rev. Abernethy & Rev. 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 & *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

“Thy Word”

Vivien Rothwell

Refrain

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path (*repeat*)

When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end (*to refrain*)

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end (*to refrain*)

Benediction

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Postlude

“I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ,” BWV 639
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ryan Sawyer

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
Vivien Rothwell: 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:

- 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
- April 18: Outdoor Earth Day Service Celebrating God's Abundant Creation; Rev. Barrett Abernethy 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.

Church Office Closed - Monday, April 5

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.

Easter Lilies: Instead of ordering lilies this year, please consider donating to the Covid fund in honor or in memory of loved ones. The link is in the weekly Happenings or on our website under "Giving". Checks can be made payable to [MVPC Foundation](#).

Flower Cross: Please bring your fresh flowers to decorate the cross at the outdoor service Easter morning.

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 25.

Youth Group: We will meet **today** 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.

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: Still feeling uncertain, even with glimmers of hope in this pandemic? Have an unrelated hard time you are experiencing? Feel like no one hears your hurt? Then a Stephen Ministry one-on-one and confidential relationship may be for you! We will listen, ask questions to help you think deeper and find clarity, be dependable and constant in your life as things around you are falling apart, offer you scriptural comfort and prayer, help you find alternative solutions, and suggest resources. We are temporary companions who ride with you through the roughest part of your journey and see you to safe shores. Contact a minister or Pat Barte, Stephen Leader, to get connected.

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: We are back to our regular hours of 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, Hazel Cofield, Corny Laube, Kirk Pumphrey

Memorial Service for longtime member Shirley Smelter Espy is Sat., 4/3 at Dunwoody UMC at 1:00 p.m. RSVP to the church or watch on their livestream.

Ways to Give Tithes: Online, Mail, or the QR code.

Attendance: 3/21 80 (outdoor)



Give Here

Financial Update

March 18-24	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$10,115	\$155,514	\$438,290
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 5,690	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 20	\$ 222	\$ 6,000
Total	\$10,135	\$161,426	\$ 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.