



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship ✠ 90.5 FM

Easter Sunday

April 4th, 2021

— GATHERING —

Prelude

Brass Quintet

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Prayer of Invocation

Introit

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”
EASTER HYMN

Matthias Young & Merav Eldan

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Call to Worship

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God's love is unending and unchanging

Motivating action, love, trust, thankfulness, forgiveness

Jesus is Lord' Now and Always

Spreading God's love, peace, hope, joy

Ministering to the least of these

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Let us celebrate the resurrection. Alleluia!

Hymn

**“Hail Thee, Festival Day”
SALVE FESTA DIES**

Matthias Young & Merav Eldan

Refrain

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;
Day when our Lord was raised, Breaking the kingdom of death.

Christ, who was nailed to the cross, Is Lord and the Ruler of nature;
All things created on earth Sing to the glory of God: *(to refrain)*

Rise from the grave now, O Lord, The author of life and creation.
Treading the pathway of death, New life You give to us all: *(to refrain)*

God the Almighty, the Lord, The ruler of earth and the heavens,
Guard us from harm without; Cleanse us from evil within: *(to refrain)*

Jesus, the health of the world, Enlighten our minds, great Redeemer,
Son of the Father supreme, Only begotten of God: *(to refrain)*

Spirit of life and of power, Now flow in us, fount of our being,
Light that enlightens us all, Life that in all may abide: *(to refrain)*

Praise to the giver of good! O Lover and Author of concord,
Pour out Your balm on our days; Order our ways in Your peace: *(to refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

When our faith stands at the grave,
grieving for a stone that's rolled away, forgive us.
When our faith is short of
understanding though the truth is there to see, forgive us.
When our faith, beset by doubt,
sees no further than an empty tomb today, forgive us.
Bring to mind the cry of Mary, 'I have seen the Lord!'
and grant us faith to believe! Amen!

Assurance of Pardon

...Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Response

**“Christ Is Alive”
TRURO**

Matthias Young & Merav Eldan

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

Passing of the Peace (*in a sacredly distant fashion*)

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Homily

Jesus Is Lord; Now & Always

As the Spirit may lead, you are invited to craft your own 6-Word Story of Faith.

— RESPONSE —

Hymn

“Thine Is the Glory!”
JUDAS MACCABEUS

Matthias Young & Merav Eldan

*Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.*

Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes Where Thy body lay.

Lo! Jesus meets us, Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee, Glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without Thee; Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors Through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan To Thy home above. (*to refrain*)

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.

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

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

...we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

...God of all that is, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 —

Hymn

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!” Matthias Young & Merav Eldan

HYMN TO JOY

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, See, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding Bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits From the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, Not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven Nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation Where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

Benediction

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Postlude

**“Suite No. 5 in C Major”
Henry Purcell (1659-1695)**

Ryan Sawyer

*We thank you for worshipping with us today.
If you are so moved and would like to give a tithe or offering,
there are collection boxes on the table where you entered the courtyard.*

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

Merav Eldan: Soprano Soloist

Thanks to the Atlanta Concert Band Brass Quintet



MVPC Announcements....



Happy Easter! Welcome to visitors, friends, and family who are joining us today on this special day! 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.

Welcome Visitors! We want to thank you for coming to our Easter service today. If you would like to learn more about who we are, please go to our website: mvpchurch.org or feel free to contact our church office at **404.255.2211** and our pastors will look forward to meeting with you.

How We Are Responding to Covid-19: 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 31 – \$78,635 (including \$12,000 in recent donations), Disbursements – \$66,471, Balance on Hand – \$12,164. You can give online or make a check payable to MVP Foundation and designate it for Covid-19.

Easter Lilies: In lieu of lilies this year, donations can be made in honor or in memory of loved ones to the Covid-19 fund.

Here are our next services:

- 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
- April 25: Join us for online worship as we look at the "Doubting Thomas" text; John 20:19-31, Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching

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.

Sunday School: The Discovery class meets Sundays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Youth: We will meet again on April 11, 18, & 25

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.



April 4, 2021

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.

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 Bepie Lever bepielever@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 Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get connected.

The April Communion Offering is for the International Women’s House, a homeless shelter for refugee and immigrant women and their children who are the victims of domestic abuse. For more information on the shelter, please go online to: internationalwomenshouse.org. Most needed items include: paper towels, bathroom tissue, Kleenex, laundry and dish detergent, non-perishable foods (especially cereal and oatmeal), child friendly snacks (juice boxes, fruit cups, granola bars, etc.), diapers – all sizes, women’s and children’s new underwear – all sizes. Donations may be brought to any in-person worship service in April or dropped off in the bin outside the entrance to the office at the church. Thank you for your generosity.

Church Office Hours: We are back to our regular hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pastor Office Hours: Barrett, Monday-Friday 8-noon; 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

Ways to Give Tithes: Online, Mail, the QR code, or give in our “Donations” drop boxes at the check-in table.

Attendance: 3/28 125 (online), 20 (in person)

Giving



Financial Update

March 25-31	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 3,742	\$159,256	\$438,290
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 950	\$ 6,365	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 60	\$ 172	\$ 6,000
Total	\$ 4,752	\$165,793	\$ 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.