



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25th, 2021

— GATHERING —

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Prayer of Invocation

† **Call to Worship**

We gather as people on a journey.

We believe & we have doubts, we do good & we sin.

We are imperfect humans, and still beloved by God.

Love and grace. Hope and faith.

These are the essence of the one we call God.

We seek forgiveness & grace from the One and from those we've harmed.

Assured of that grace, we are ready to grow again.

We yearn for a new way, a new perspective, and a clear path.

Though we are full of trust and full of doubt, we are here.

Speak to us, God! Continue creating us!

Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions. Amen.

Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

Matthias Young

O STORE GUD

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made.

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration,

And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (*to refrain*)

† Prayer of Confession

Must we see you in order to believe you, Lord?
Is seeing truly believing?
Are we to be prisoners of our senses,
distrusting and rejecting
whatever we cannot see, touch, or hear?
Yet you are faithful—
you give sight to the blind,
you carry us when we are weary,
you call us to your side.
The locked rooms of our hearts
open at the turn of your key.
Speak your words of life to us again:
“Do not doubt, only believe.”
Speak your words of life,
that we might live.

Assurance of Pardon

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

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Homily

Holy Dirt

Hymn

“This Is My Father’s World”

Matthias Young

TERRA BEATA

This is my Father’s world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father’s world.
Oh, let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world:
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

— **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 —

Song

“You’re Worthy of Our Praise”

Matthias Young

We will worship
With all of our hearts
We will praise You
With all of our strength

We will seek You
All of our days
We will follow
All of Your ways

Refrain

We will give You all of our worship
We will give You all of our praise
You alone we long to worship
You alone are worthy of our praise

We will bow down
And hail You as King
We will serve You
Give You everything

We will lift up
Our eyes to Your throne
We will trust You
Trust You alone (*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 that you have chosen to worship with us this day.

If you are watching this, we hope that what you are watching is our last exclusive online service (at least for a while). Starting next week, we hope to return to weekly online and in-person services on our church courtyard. In order to ensure this reality, we do need your help:

Currently, we are in need of people like you willing to serve as ushers for these services, so please contact the church office or reach out directly to our Worship Ministry Team led by Dale Morine, Wendy Hagenau, and Amy Kiley. We also need greeters to welcome visitors. If you are a visitor watching right now, please know when you are comfortable to come in person we want to greet you with the peace of Christ. If you are a church member interested in being a greeter, please also contact the church office, or our Witness Leader, Angie Hawthorne.

Over the next three Sundays we will worship on our courtyard at 11am. If it is hot, please feel free to come casual.

On May 2nd we will recognize our graduating seniors.

On May 9th we will celebrate the gifts of motherhood.

On May 16th, we will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord Sunday.

Your Worship Team is meeting May 4th and we will make plans for the rest of May and beyond. We will let you know of those plans as soon as they develop.

Beyond worship, we look forward to connecting with you in many different ways. Follow us on social media, join one of our small groups, or get connected to our children, youth, or Presbyterian Women ministries.

Finally, let us be connected in prayer. We continue to pray for our country as we continue to emerge from this pandemic, and we ask for healing and reconciliation as we work to strengthen relationships and listen to those whose experience of life is different from ours. We pray for the family of George Floyd and for those who have died due to senseless violence. We pray for the day when these prayers are no longer needed.

We also continue to pray for those close to us. We give thanks for those whom we have called a brother, sister, friend, and empathetic stranger during this season. We lift up those who are hurting this day, those who grieve in silence, and those who wonder if God is present. May they know that we walk in peace with them.

And now, may the peace of Christ dwell within our hearts and minds as we prepare to worship God...