



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Outdoor Order of Worship ✦ 90.5 FM

May 2nd, 2021 ✦ 11:00 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

— GATHERING —

Prelude

“Arabesque No. 1”
Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Ryan Sawyer

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Prayer of Invocation

† Call to Worship

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, with our whole heart;

We will tell of all your marvelous works!

We will be glad and rejoice in you;

We will sing to your name, O Lord!

Those who know your name will put their trust in you,

For you never forsake those who seek you, O Lord.

Let us worship God!

Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Matthias Young

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son
And Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore,
The God who was, and is,
And shall be evermore.

† Prayer of Confession

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Merciful God,
We confess that despite all the years we commit to learning and growing,
we still fall short.
Too quickly we give ourselves to knowing more, making more, and achieving more.
We let these goals blind us to your purposes around us and within us.
Forgive us, Lord, for putting ourselves before you.

Reveal to us a better way forward!
Fill us with dreams of your kingdom,
with the restoration of our communities,
and abundant love for our neighbors.

Be with us as we re-commit to learning and growing in you.
May your forgiveness dwell at the center of our lives. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Response

“Alleluia”
VICTORY

Matthias Young

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

...The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Senior Recognition

High School Graduates

Gill Christian

Child of John and Meg Christian, *The Mount Vernon School*

Bryce Cumming

Child of Ben and Lisa Cumming, *The Mount Vernon School*

Nicholas Peji

Child of Larry and Joyce Peji, *The Mount Vernon School*

Emma Plumly

Child of Chad and Patsy Plumly, *North Springs High School*

Ethan Ray

Child of Steve and Shelly Ray, *The Mount Vernon School*

Zack Van Putten

Child of Brent and Missy Van Putten, *The Mount Vernon School*

Charlie Hale

Child of Garrett and Jen Hale, *The Mount Vernon School*

Grace Sawyer

Child of Doug and Susan Sawyer, *The Walker School*

Jack Sims

Child of Wynn and Lane Sims, *The Mount Vernon School*

Post-Secondary Graduates

Sarah Northrop

Child of Bruce and Laura Northrop, Grandchild of Beverly Northrop, *University of Georgia*

Lucy Kilgore

Child of Sid and Amy Kilgore, Grandchild of Mary Kilgore, *Samford University*

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Scripture

Judges 12:1-7

The men of Ephraim were called to arms, and they crossed to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, “Why did you cross over to fight against the Ammonites, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down over you!” 2 Jephthah said to them, “My people and I were engaged in conflict with the Ammonites who oppressed us severely. But when I called you, you did not deliver me from their hand. 3 When I saw that you would not deliver me, I took my life in my hand, and crossed over against the Ammonites, and the Lord gave them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day, to fight against me?” 4 Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought with Ephraim; and the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, “You are fugitives from Ephraim, you Gileadites—in the heart of Ephraim and Manasseh.” 5 Then the Gileadites took the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. Whenever one of the fugitives of Ephraim said, “Let me go over,” the men of Gilead would say to him, “Are you an Ephraimite?” When he said, “No,” 6 they said to him, “Then say Shibboleth,” and he said, “Sibboleth,” for he could not pronounce it right. Then they seized him and killed him at the fords of the Jordan. Forty-two thousand of the Ephraimites fell at that time.

7 Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died, and was buried in his town in Gilead.

Homily

Shibboleth Sibboleth

Hymn

**“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”
RESIGNATION**

Matthias Young

My Shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is His Name:
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Your house be my abode,
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, or a guest,
But like a child at home.

— 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.

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

"Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

Matthias Young

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

Benediction

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Postlude

"Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel"
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

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



MVPC Announcements....



Welcome! 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.

Visitor Info: We want to thank you for coming today. If you would like to learn more about who we are, please go to our website: mvpchurch.org, contact our church office at **404.255.2211**, or speak with one of our pastors after the service.

Ushers Needed! This month we will worship in person every Sunday. To prevent exhaustion, we will need teams of 3-4 ushers to alternate Sundays. If you are interested in becoming an usher (no experience required), please contact Wendy Hagenau, Dale Morine, Amy Kiley or contact the church office.

Audio/Visual Help Needed: As we prepare to return indoors, we need your help with all of the moving parts involved in the worship service—specifically, audio/visual. This involves camera work and audio management. Both tasks are relatively simple, yet necessary components of our worship service. If you would like to be involved, please contact our Director of Music, Matthias Young to learn more.

We have a new mailing address! When mailing anything to the church, please use our new post office box: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358 (please note a different zip code)

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 April 29 – \$80,882, Disbursements – \$79,471, Balance on Hand – \$1,411. You can give online or make a check payable to MVP Foundation and designate it for Covid-19.

Upcoming Services: Rev. Barrett Abernethy will be preaching. Reservations for all outdoor services need to be made by the previous Saturday at 6:00 p.m. SignUp Genius is on our website.

May 9: Outdoor Worship (11:00) – Mother’s Day, Mark 7: 24-30
May 16: Outdoor Worship (11:00) – Ascension of the Lord, Luke 24: 44-53
May 23: Outdoor Worship (11:00) – Pentecost, Acts 2: 1-21

Taize Outdoor Service: Our next service is **May 12** 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. Barrett & Isaac will lead a class starting in June focusing on sermons they have written.

Youth: We will meet **today**, 5:00 at Gailey Hall; and on **May 16** at Top Golf from 4-6:00 p.m..

Weekly Ways to Connect: Tuesday Phone Devotional @ 2:00 p.m., Midweek Manna, Children’s Sunday School on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. with Carrie Southard via Zoom.

May 2, 2021

Presbyterian Women: All women are welcome to join us for a “Picnic on the Patio”, Saturday, May 15 at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Ann Williams at as97williams@gmail.com by May 11. Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt will also install new officers.

The MVPC Members’ Gift of Wisdom Spring/Summer issue is available at the check-in table. If you haven’t already done so, please pick one up on your way out.

Small Groups: Groups are off to a great start! There’s still time to sign up. You can get information and sign-up by emailing David Hill at david.hill321@comcast.net.

The MVPC Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministry International, like all others, has had to adapt and is offering their leadership training online during Covid. In order to take advantage of a reduced financial cost for training for our church and to secure leadership continuity of this essential ministry at Mount Vernon Presbyterian, we are happy to welcome Catie OHare to our Stephen Ministry team. She will train to be a Co-leader with Pat Bartee. Catie starts a 10-session, cohort, online program in June. At the present time, there are no plans to train additional Stephen Ministers. As always, your Stephen Ministers are here to walk with you through life's deeper valleys and are consistently training to be ready to meet your needs and keep them confidential. Please contact us through a minister or by calling or emailing Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.

The May Communion Offering is non-perishable food for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center (CAC). Most needed items include: canned meats, canned fruits & vegetables, canned pasta & sauce (no glass jars), cereal/oatmeal, macaroni/cheese, canned meat entrees, peanut butter, jelly, soup, rice. Donations may be brought to the in-person worship services in May or dropped off at any time in the bin outside the church office. A drive-thru event is also scheduled for May 23 from 2 – 4 PM. Please consider purchasing food donations as a part of your regular grocery shopping routine by taking advantage of “buy one, get one free” at some supermarkets or the extra 10% habit recommended by a fellow church member – buy one item to donate for every ten items in your cart. Thank you for your generosity!

The Annual Mother’s Day Offering for Presbyterian Homes of Georgia will be received on May 9 with all proceeds going to the *Caring Hands Fund*. These funds provide assistance to elderly residents who have outlived their financial resources and ensure that no one is ever asked to leave one of the homes due to inability to pay. Donations may be sent to the church office with “Mother’s Day Offering” written in the check memo line. Online donations may be made by going to phgainc.org – from the menu select “donate” and then “Caring Hands Offering”.

Pastor Office Hours: Barrett, Monday–Friday 8:00–noon; Isaac, Tuesday–Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please contact them directly to make an appointment.

Prayer Concerns: Ann Baynham, Julie Chesnutt, Hazel Cofield, Bruce Hagenau, 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.



Financial Update

April 23–28	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$20,170	\$211,793	\$438,290
Member Giving Non–Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 10,480	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 0	\$ 5,432	\$ 6,000
Total	\$ 20,170	\$227,705	\$ 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.