



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship ❖ 90.5 FM

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021 ❖ 11:00 AM

— GATHERING —

Prelude

“First Snow”

Matthias Young

Paul O'Neill (1956-2017)

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Prayer of Invocation

† Call to Worship

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

We gather together to worship
our loving, nurturing God,
who, like a mother,
knows us intimately,
loves us unconditionally,
teaches us the way we should go,
and comforts us in times of need.
Praise God,
the Source and Sustainer of life!

Morning Song

“Like the Sun”

Matthias Young

See my life in a movie show
A hiding place I used to know
Played an actor's role that stole from my true part
Take me down the road a ways
And I'm thankful for these better days
I never dreamed you'd love me like you do
My it seems it's been a long and lonely winter
I hear your voice in the morning
When I'm sad
I feel you smile and whisper to me
Every little thing will be alright
Like the sun
Comes shinin' through my window
Breaks the darkness in the early morning light
Sing a song of sixpence
And a pocket full of rye
In the fall it seems the blackbirds fly away
And there's times I'm feelin' not so strong
Can't face another highway song
Then I remember
That you're never too far away

As I walk down this lonely stretch of highway
 I hear your voice callin' me back home
 When I'm sad
 I feel you smile and whisper to me
 Every little thing will be alright
 Like the sun
 Comes shinin' through my window
 Breaks the darkness in the early morning light

 Long ago and so far away
 Lives a dream, a dream I used to know
 Like the sun in the morning
 Shinin' on my face, you bring me home again
 Home again to you

 I'm so glad
 To feel you smile
 And whisper to me
 Every little thing will be alright
 Like the sun
 Shinin' through my window
 Breaks the darkness in the early morning light

† Prayer of Confession

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God who loves and forgives all, we come to you this day to meet people like the Syrophoenician woman. On this day that we celebrate motherhood, we celebrate the faith she exuded and the courage to share her struggle.
 Sometimes we embody these qualities.
 Often, we do not.
 Sometimes we are sacrificial, bold, and loving toward others.
 Often, we are hangry (yes, angry and hungry), selfish, and we hurl insults at those we deem less than.
 Help us to live into the spirit of new life this Easter season often.
 Help us to discard the ways that would have us perpetuate the death of relationships and hope.
 Lead us to live like the Syrophoenician woman, to live for our children, to live for the next generation, to live with courage. To enact the spirit of motherhood we witness.
 We ask for this faithfulness to dwell upon and through us... Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Response

"Alleluia"
 VICTORY

Matthias Young

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Scripture

Mark 7:24-30

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 28 But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." 30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Homily

The Mothers We Need

— RESPONSE —

Hymn

"Here I Am, Lord"

Matthias Young

HERE I AM, LORD

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send? (*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.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

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

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

Matthias Young

RANDOLPH

God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you;
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Benediction

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Postlude

“Suite in C Major”

Ryan Sawyer

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

*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....



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)

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.

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 16: Outdoor Worship (11:00) – Ascension of the Lord, Luke 24: 44-53

May 23: Outdoor Worship (11:00) – Pentecost, Acts 2: 1-21

May 30: Outdoor Worship (**10:00**) – Trinity Sunday, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt preaching

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. This will take place at 11:00 a.m. following worship.

Youth: We will meet again on **May 16** at Top Golf from 4-6:00 p.m. Please contact Isaac to sign up.

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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.

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.

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: Anne 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.

Attendance: 5/2 94 (outdoor)

Giving



Financial Update

May 1-5	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$9,364	\$221,157	\$438,290
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 525	\$ 11,005	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 1	\$ 5,433	\$ 6,000
Total	\$9,890	\$237,595	\$ 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.