



## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

Seventh Sunday of Easter ❖ Ascension of the Lord

May 16, 2021 ❖ 11:00 AM ❖ 90.5 FM

### — GATHERING —

**Prelude**

**“The Spruce”**

Ryan Sawyer

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

**Welcome & Announcements**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Prayer of Invocation**

**† Call to Worship**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ’s return to God.

**We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!**

But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

**Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God’s love to us.**

Let’s get to work!

**Let’s make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!**

Amen.

**AMEN!**

**Hymn**

**“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”**

Matthias Young &

**CORONATION**

Vivien Rothwell

All hail the power of Jesus’ Name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,

On this terrestrial ball,

To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him Lord of all!

To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng

We at His feet may fall!

We’ll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all!

We’ll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all!

## † Prayer of Confession

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Too often, Lord God,  
we are hesitant in our proclamation;  
seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.

Too often, Lord God,  
we are half-hearted in our service;  
reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.

Too often, Lord God,  
we live as if dependent wholly on our own resources;  
relying on our perceived skills and modest insights.

Too often, Lord God,  
we look to the clouds for our inspiration,  
in the vain hope of finding you there.

Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith and open wide our hearts and minds to  
the presence of our Risen, Living and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ...

## 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

Luke 24: 44-53

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

## Homily

*A Busy Day*

— RESPONSE —

**Hymn**

**“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”**

Matthias Young &  
Vivien Rothwell

MARION

Rejoice ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! rejoice!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Yes, on through life's long path,  
Still chanting as ye go;  
From youth to age, by night and day,  
In gladness and in woe. *(to refrain)*

Then on, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King. *(to refrain)*

† **Affirmation of Faith (Acts 1: 8-11)**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

**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.**

...We sing your praise and join the everlasting 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,

Hosanna in the highest.

**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 —**

**Hymn**

**“At the Name of Jesus”**

Matthias Young

**KING'S WESTON**

At the name of Jesus  
Every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess Him  
King of glory now;  
'Tis the Father's pleasure  
We should call Him Lord,  
Who from the beginning  
Was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season,  
To receive a name  
From the lips of sinners,  
Unto whom He came,  
Faithfully He bore it  
Spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious  
When from death He passed;

Christians, this Lord Jesus  
Shall return again,  
With His Father's glory,  
O'er the earth to reign;  
For all wreaths of empire  
Meet upon His brow,  
And our hearts confess Him  
King of glory now.

**Benediction**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Postlude**

**“Prelude in C-Sharp Major,” BWV 848**  
Johann Sabastian Bach (1685-1750)

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

**Vivien Rothwell:** Guest Soloist



# 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. 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](http://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 May 13 – \$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 23: Outdoor Worship (11:00) – Pentecost, Acts 2: 1-21

May 30: Outdoor Worship (**10:00**) – Trinity Sunday, John 3:1-17, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt preaching

**Food Drive and Fur Babies:** Next Sunday, **May 23** from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Gailey Hall. Bring your pets for a blessing and food to support Community Assistance Center (CAC).

**Taize Outdoor Service:** We will not meet in June & July and will resume in August.

**Youth:** Today is our last meeting at Top Golf from 4-6:00 p.m.

**May 16, 2021**

**Godly Play** will resume in August.

**Sunday School:** The Discovery class meets Sundays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Barrett & Isaac will lead a class starting in June-July focusing on sermons they have written. This will take place at 11:00 a.m. following worship.

**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.

**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:** If you are experiencing hesitancy returning to a "normal" life after the Pandemic, grief, rehabilitation, a move, or any other unsettling event, a Stephen Minister is the best companion to have with you. We are temporary helpers who listen, hear, keep confidences, encourage, and share strategies to assist you as you emerge from a deep valley in your life. We can be there in the valley, as well, but, for some, it is the return to normalcy that is the most difficult task. Please utilize our strengths and skills to ease any transition by contacting a minister or calling Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to become involved.

**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!

**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:** 5/9: 72 (outdoor), 27 (online)

*Giving*



### Financial Update

May 6-12	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$7,412	\$228,569	\$438,290
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 195	\$ 11,200	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 6	\$ 5,439	\$ 6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,613</b>	<b>\$245,208</b>	<b>\$ 514,290</b>

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](mailto:terri@mvpchurch.org).