



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 3, 2021 ✠ 10:30 AM ✠ 90.5 FM

† For those who are able, please stand.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

“316”

Matthias Young

Edward Lodewijk Van Halen (1955-2020)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

ONE: Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday!

ALL: We see the flags, we look up to the cloud of witnesses,
and we know we are a part of something much larger than ourselves.

ONE: These flags, like those clouds, represent a common humanity, a unity in Jesus Christ.

ALL: Let us bear witness to the hope they long to envision!

ONE: Let us, in that spirit, speak truth for those who cannot be heard, and those who cannot be seen.

ALL: For faithful character exists even when it is not physically present.
Let us worship God.

† MORNING SONG

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Paul Baloche (b. 1962)

Open the eyes of my heart Lord,

Open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see You.

I want to see You. (*repeat*)

To see You high and lifted up,

Shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy holy holy.

I want to see you.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of hope, we come to you this day with the knowledge that not only is this church one body, but that we are a part of a worldwide communion that is interconnected in faith through your son, Jesus Christ. Often, we forget that, and in our conflicts and divisions, we do our worst to sever this body. We make assumptions based on falsehoods. We make idols of what we believe. Remove the chains of pride and the penchant for violence. (*Continued on next page...*)

Lead us to hear you anew, invite us to welcome each other in a spirit of humility- seeing each other humanly. For faithful character means displaying that grace which is rooted in Christ, but it also means trusting that that same grace dwells within the one we think less than or the one we think we have to oversee. Guide us this day, O God, to dwell in hope together, and lead us to the table that knows no stranger. In your abundant name, we pray. Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Glory to God”

GLORIA (Taizé)

(Cantor will sing the verse, followed by the congregation.)

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the highest!

Glory to God, Glory to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward for storytelling and prayer.)

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)

✠ THE WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Philemon 8-21

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

HOMILY

Faithful Character: Onesimus

✠ RESPONSE ✠

† SONG IN RESPONSE

“Thy Word”

Amy Grant

Refrain

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path (*repeat*)

When I feel afraid And I think I've lost my way

Still You're there right beside me

Nothing will I fear As long as You are near

Please be near me to the end (*to refrain*)

I will not forget Your love for me and yet

My heart forever is wandering

Jesus be my guide And hold me to Your side

I will love You to the end (*to refrain*)

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Apostles' Creed*)

Rev. 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, & Shari Freeman

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

ALL: 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

OFFERING OF MUSIC

"40"
(Based on Psalm 40)
U2

Matthias Young

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Joy Carden

✠ SENDING ✠

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"
Martin Smith (b. 1970)

Over the mountains and the sea Your river runs with love for me
And I will open up my heart And let the Healer set me free
I'm happy to be in the truth And I will daily lift my hands
For I will always sing Of when Your love came down

I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Improvisation"
Matthias Young

Matthias Young

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

*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 plates as you exit.*

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,
go to the Visitor's Table to pick up a visitor bag with a little gift
and someone will be there to greet you.*

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Matthias Young, Director of Music
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

We are located at
471 Mount Vernon Hwy, NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328
mvpchurch.org



Our mailing address is
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

MVPC Announcements....

From your car
radio tune into FM
90.5 to listen to
the service.



Welcome! Updated Covid Protocols – In light of new CDC recommendations, we are strongly encouraging all people, whether vaccinated or not, wear a mask if they worship or if they engage in any indoor ministry gathering.

Visitors & Membership: 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. If you are interested in joining MVP Church, please stop at the **Welcome Table in the Narthex** and pick up a visitor bag where someone will be there to greet you.



Next Outdoor Worship Service: November 14



Upcoming Services:

October 10 Luke 10:38-42, "Faithful Characters: Martha & Mary", Shari Freeman
October 17 Titus 1:5-2:1, "Faithfull Character: Titus", Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Congregational Meeting: Please stay after the service on **October 17** to elect our new Elders.

Taize – Join us on Tuesday, **October 12** at 7pm in the Sanctuary for a quiet meditative short service.



Youth: We meet on Sunday from 5-6:30pm at Gailey Hall. We provide dinner, activity, and a lesson for the youth. We need volunteers to provide dinners. Please contact Isaac to sign up.

Presbyterian Women: In October the **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, October 12, at 10:00. The **Sunday Circle** will meet on Sunday, October 10, after the Sunday service. Both circles will study lesson 1, *Family Trees*, in the Horizons Bible Study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, October 8 at 10:00 and discuss *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle. The **Circle of Grace** will not meet in October.



October 3, 2021



Conversation (Adult Sunday School): At 9:30am the **Crossroads** class meets in the Session Room; and the **Discovery** class meets in the Chapel.

Children's Christian Education will happen on the patio during the second half of worship.

Ways to Connect: Are you on our mailing list for the weekly *Happenings* email? How about the monthly newsletter *The Good News*? If not and you would like to receive them, send an email to debbie@mvpchurch.org

The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom Fall issue is now available in the Narthex. Be sure to pick one up.

Afghanistan Refugee Outreach: Thank you to everyone who brought their complete kits to the church!



The October Communion Offering is candy for the Halloween Truck or Treat event at Lake Forest Elementary School. This annual event gives students and their parents a safe environment to enjoy Halloween festivities. Bags of individually wrapped pieces of candy as well as other snacks such as granola bars are needed. Please leave all donations in the Outreach Bin near the church office at any time until **October 24**. Thank you for your generosity.

Prayer Concerns: Anne Baynham, Carol Beckman, Julie Chesnutt, Inez Cole, Iva Corbin, Bruce Hagenau, Mary Lou Newman, Catie O'Hare, Kirk Pumphrey, Linda Thomas, Dave Whitacre.

Prayers for the family of Mary Earle Pelfrey. Her memorial service will be Saturday, November 11 at 11:00am. Reception to follow in the Narthex.

Attendance: 9/26 80(Sanctuary), 25(online)

Giving



Financial Update

September 24-30	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$7,783	\$377,455	\$438,290
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$1,775	\$ 32,951	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 0	\$ 7,564	\$ 6,000
Total	\$9,558	\$417,970	\$ 514,290

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to debbie@mvpchurch.org