



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 28, 2021 ✠ 10:30 AM

† For those who are able, please stand.

*As we move from a time of fellowship in Connection to a time of worship in Church,
let us enter the Sanctuary in a prayerful manner,
and may we open our hearts and minds to worship God.*

✠ GATHERING ✠

RINGING OF THE BELLS

INTROIT

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Plainsong Melody (c. 1524)

PRELUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come” Op. 9, No. 1

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

“Savior of the Nations, Come” BuxWV 211

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

“Savior of the Nations, Come” BWV 599

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Dr. Kenneth Sass

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Members circa 1970s

ONE: Each of us gather here having been a part of this congregation through many seasons.

ALL: **We begin our Advent journey led to heed Christ’s Eternal Word.**

ONE: During the pandemic, we have seen that Word afresh,
transcending boundaries and transforming hearts.”

ALL: **Jesus declares, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”**

ONE: Last year, our sanctuary stayed dark.

ALL: **This year, the light we have found through your presence fans a flame in this holiest of spaces.**

ONE: We light this, the Candle of hope,
to celebrate the hope we found and the hope we long to witness as we begin this journey.

† MORNING SONG #2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Abernethy

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped. We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see. We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear. We are numb to inconvenient truths. Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts calloused over to compassion. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you, the Son of Man, in whose name we pray. Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Abernethy

(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. Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24:32-35

HOMILY

Eternal Word

✠ RESPONSE ✠

† SONG IN RESPONSE #36 (V. 1, 2, 4) “In the Bleak Midwinter”

CRANHAM

In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter A stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Sujay, Htet, & Sophie Galen

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

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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. Abernethy

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.

OFFERTORY

“Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth”

Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

Please remain seated; as the choir stands, let us then all stand together in praise and song.

† DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dee Bradford-Smith

✠ SENDING ✠

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #13

“Prepare the Way”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.
He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. *(to refrain)*
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. *(to refrain)*

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

† CHORAL RESPONSE

“Amen”

Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on “Savior of the Nations, Come” Op. 5, No.10”
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Dr. Sass



Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Matthias Young, Director of Worship
Dr. Kenneth Sass, Principal Organist
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

*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.*

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



Our mailing address is
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