



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 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

“O Gladsome Light”

Raymond Weidner (b. 1949)

PRELUDE

“Prélude Solennel (Veni Emmanuel)”
from *An American Organ Mass*
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

Dr. Kenneth Sass

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Members circa 1950-1960s

ONE: We gather here shaped by the eternal Word of Jesus Christ.

ALL: **Today we learn from Christ that we must be ready, for we do not know the day nor hour.**

ONE: Indeed, the Advent expectation calls us to recognize the timelessness of Christ.

A timelessness that we have seen as Christ has called us here again and again.

ALL: **“Keep awake!” is our cry today. Let us light the candle of peace certain that Christ will come.**

ONE: We light this candle knowing that this light will reveal what we have not seen
and point us to what we are called to see.

ALL: **Amen! Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG #12

“People, Look East”

BESANÇON

People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way. (*Continued on next page*)

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of watchfulness, through your Holy Spirit, we know you are always present in our lives. Whether or not we acknowledge this truth, it does not matter. You are there. In our brokenness and our triumphs, you are there. Yet our struggle, in our lack of patience, understanding, and humility, is that we long to seek certainty in our lives. We believe certainty allows us to sleep easy at night, but today your Son tells us to keep awake. Because when you do return in full glory heaven and earth will collide, bonding wholeness with brokenness. In this season of Advent, you call us to stay present with you, to live into the uncertainty, believing that as the nights grow longer, Jesus draws nearer... *(Silent confession)*

† 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

Matthew 24:36-44

HOMILY

Eternal Time

✠ RESPONSE ✠

† SONG IN RESPONSE #20

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

ABERYSTWYTH

Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth. *(Continued on next page)*

Watchman, tell us of the night, For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight, Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease; Hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace, Lo! the Son of God is come!

† 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

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

OFFERTORY

"Glasgow Love Theme"

Matthias Young, Guitar

Craig Armstrong (b. 1959) • Transcribed & Arr. by Matthias Young

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

Sarah Chalpan

†

✠ SENDING ✠

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #38 (v. 1, 4) "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song Which now the angels sing.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

† CHORAL RESPONSE

"Amen"

Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

POSTLUDE

"Lord Christ, the Only Son of God" BWV 601
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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

The Quartet

June Abbott, Soprano
Magdalena Wór, Mezzo-Soprano
Anthony Menardi, Tenor
Nathan Abernethy, Bass

*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
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358



MVPC Announcements....

Zooming Thru The Carols

- Dec. 6** "Christmas in Dixie" Isaac
- Dec. 7** "Mary, Did You Know?" Shari
- Dec. 8** "Away in a Manger" Barrett
- Dec. 9** "O, Come All Ye Faithful" Matthias
- Dec. 10** "Christmas Lullaby" Barrett

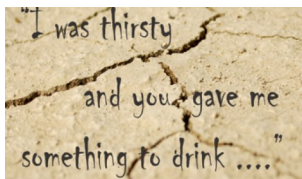


Welcome! Per Church Policy – We recommend the wearing of masks while indoors. If you would like more information on the church protocols, you can find a link on our website.

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.



Upcoming Services:



- December 12 Matthew 25: 31-46, "Eternal Action", Rev. Barrett Abernethy
- December 14 Taizé Worship, 7:00pm Sanctuary
- December 19 Lessons & Carols
- December 19 Longest Night, 5:00pm in the Chapel



Atlanta Concert Band Christmas Concert: Sunday, December 12 at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Drivers Needed: We are in need of drivers to pick up residents from the MV Towers and bring them to church on Sunday mornings. Sedans are preferable to SUVs for mobility issues. Please contact the church if you would like to help in this ministry.



Stephen Ministry: Longtime Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader, Mike Gillespie, has joined our group as Bruce Morine goes on "sabbatical". We welcome him and all the experience he brings us. We continue to offer one-on-one personal relationships, males aiding males and females helping females through difficult times. Please contact a minister or call Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, on her cell to get started.

Family Promise: Your MVP Coordinators are happy to announce that **Dunwoody Community Church** has joined with **B'nai Torah** in providing valuable support as we all strive to make this group's time at **Mount Vernon Presbyterian** filled with the spirit and warmth of the holiday season. It's time, once again, to begin thinking of the many different ways you can assist with this very worthwhile outreach program. Our scheduled time for hosting the current two families (with 11 children between them) is December 26 to January 1, 2022. SignUp Genius is in weekly email.

December 5, 2021



Make sure to follow us
on social media to stay
up to date!

Youth: We will meet today from 5-6:30pm at Gailey Hall. We will gather to share a meal, fellowship, bible study, as well as make smore's by the fire outside! We need volunteers to provide dinners. Please contact Isaac to signup.

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 be in the Chapel during the second half of worship.

Outreach Tree for the Homeless: Please bring warm winter clothing and grooming products to decorate the Outreach Tree in the Narthex. Need gloves, hats, scarves, socks, coats/jackets, flannel shirts, sweatpants, hoodies, sturdy shoes, sneakers, rainwear, and blankets.



The Presbyterian Women's Christmas Lunch and Celebration will be on **December 12** in the Kirk Center after the Sunday service. Rev. Isaac and Christina Toney-Schmitt will share some Advent Poems. We will be taking reservations before the service. The cost is \$15 and lunch is included.

The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom Winter issue will be available in January.

The December Communion Offering is new, unwrapped toys and clothing for the children at the International Women's House, a shelter for abused refugee and immigrant women and their children. Please bring all donations to the church office any time before **December 19**.

Prayer Concerns: Carol Beckman, Inez Cole, Bruce Hagenau, Alistair Morine, Harry Nelson, Richard Player, Rob Southard, Katie Spotloe, Dave Whitacre, and vulnerable families

Prayers for the family of Susan Haynes on the sudden death of her son-in-law, Michael Moore on Nov. 26. His service was held this past Thursday in Dahlonga.

Attendance: 11/28 82(Sanctuary), 28(online)

Please sign the attendance pad and pass it down the pew as you greet your neighbor.

Giving



Financial Update

November 24-30	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 4,287	\$455,177	\$438,290
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 720	\$ 38,906	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 30	\$ 8,279	\$ 6,000
Total	\$ 5,037	\$ 502,362	\$ 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