



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ✦ LESSONS & CAROLS
DECEMBER 19, 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.*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Op. 122, No. 8
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Dr. Kenneth Sass

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

†

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

Soloists

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir

He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Congregation

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Members circa 1980s

ONE: No matter how long we have been rooted to this community of faith...

ALL: What bonds us together is the love of Jesus Christ.

ONE: That is why we light the candle of love.

ALL: For love is the reason we read the lessons and sing the carols.

ONE: We come together seeking this promise.

ALL: May we witness this hope and this peace.

ONE: And may we witness this joy, and the light of the world we long to see.

ALL: Let us worship God.

“Sussex Carol”

Traditional English Carol • Arr. Elaine Hagenberg

†

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

Choir

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.

Congregation

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

†

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

Congregation

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

†

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

Congregation

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.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
 And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world;
 Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing,
 And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
 Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,
 Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing;
 O rest beside the weary road, And 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.

Children are invited to gather in the Narthex to depart for Sunday School

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Gustav Holst (1874-1934) • Arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)

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"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

Choir

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
 Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
 Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Congregation

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart, and soul and voice;
 Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
 He hath opened heaven's door, And we are blest forevermore.
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this! (*Continued on next page*)

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Alice Ann Lever

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

Traditional French Carol • Arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925) & Robert Shaw (1916-1999)

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Gill Christian

†

“Away in a Manger”

MUELLER

Soloists

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Congregation

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Gill Christian

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“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

Soloists

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Congregation

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

Soloist

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.

Congregation

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light! *(Continued on next page)*

Soloist

Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, we are raising, Worshipping God Most High.

Congregation

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

Soloist

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Congregation

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

Congregation

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia, Sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

“Carol of the Bells”

Ukrainian Carol • Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921) • Arr. Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Amy Kiley

†

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

Congregation

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth! *(Continued on next page)*

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”
Arr. Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

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

Soloists

Rebecca Shipley, Soprano
Sharon Simons, Mezzo-Soprano
Dr. Roger Scanlan, Tenor
Anthony Menardi, Tenor
Nathan Abernethy, Bass

Readers

Hannah Hagenau
Ryan Sawyer
Alice Ann Lever
Gill Christian

*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. 20 "Still, Still, Still" Isaac
Dec. 21 "O Holy Night" Shari
Dec. 22 "Silent Night" Barrett
Dec. 23 "White Christmas" Matthias

MVPC in a Nutshell this Week:

Sun 12/19 Longest Night Service in Chapel – 5pm
Mon 12/20 Caroling – 5pm (meet at Gailey Hall)
Tues 12/21 Phone Devotional – 2pm
Wed 12/22 Choir Rehearsal – 7pm
Fri 12/24 Live Nativity with the Animals – 5pm
Christmas Eve Service – 5:30pm
Sat 12/25 Merry Christmas!

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 26 Carols & Casseroles in Kirk Center, Matthew 2:13-15, 16-23,
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
January 2, 2022 Matthew 2:1-12, Shari Freeman



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: The holidays are joyous for most of us, but for those far from family or isolated by health issues or illness, it can be a lonely or depressing time. If you are grieving, memories of a loved one can be overwhelming at holiday time. Please know you are not alone. Contact a minister or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to talk with a Stephen Minister and have them walk with you through a difficult time.



Family Promise: We will be providing valuable support as we all strive to make this group's time at MVPC filled with the spirit and warmth of the holiday season. Please bring non-perishable items on/before Dec. 23 to the church office; and perishable items on Sunday, Dec. 26 to Fellowship Hall. Penny Kiel will be in Fellowship Hall to receive your items until 3:30pm. SignUp Genius is in the weekly email.

Caroling: If you love to go caroling, please join us at Gailey Hall on Monday, Dec. 20 at 5pm. Afterwards we will enjoy dinner together at Slope's BBQ.

Youth: We will not meet today. Please join us for caroling tomorrow at Gailey Hall at 5pm.

December 19, 2021



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

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

The Christmas Joy Offering, one of four annual special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA), will be received TODAY. Donations go to the denomination's General Assembly to provide support for current and retired ministers and other church workers experiencing health and other financial challenges. A portion of the funds also goes to support Presbyterian-affiliated colleges providing education to racial and ethnic minorities (including Stillman College in Alabama).

Children's Christian Education will be in the Chapel after the third lesson.

Outreach Tree for the Homeless: Please bring warm winter clothing and grooming products to decorate the Outreach Tree in the Narthex until **January 2**. Needed items include gloves, hats, scarves, socks, coats/jackets, flannel shirts, sweatpants, hoodies, sturdy shoes, sneakers, rainwear, and blankets.



In January the **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, January 11, at 10:00. The **Sunday Circle** will meet on Sunday, January 9, after the Sunday service. Both circles will study a lesson from 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, January 14 at 10:00 and discuss *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult.

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

Prayer Concerns: Carol Beckman, Inez Cole, Bruce Hagenau, Sarah Hill, John Moran, Alistair Morine, Richard Player, Rob Southard, Katie Spotloe, Dave Whitacre, and vulnerable families

Memoria Service for Mary Lou Newman will be Thursday, December 23 at 3pm at Mount Vernon Towers in the Sun Porch. Rev. Abernethy will be officiating.

Attendance: 12/12 89(Sanctuary), 23(online)

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

Giving



Financial Update

December 9-15	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$2,880	\$492,932	\$438,290
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 50	\$ 41,903	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$1,020	\$ 9,349	\$ 6,000
Total	\$ 3,950	\$544,184	\$ 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