



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2021 ✦ 5:30 PM ✦ 90.5 FM

CHRISTMAS EVE

† *For those who are able, please stand.*

✦ GATHERING ✦

PRELUDE

Atlanta Concert Band Brass Trio

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! *(to refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! *(to refrain)*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

21st Century Members

ONE: Last year we celebrated in our homes, online, or in our cars.

ALL: **This year we gather together to see the hope of Jesus Christ.**

ONE: We light the Christ candle as a reminder that Emmanuel means “God is with us.”

ALL: **For what we have learned is that the light of Christ transcends walls and knows no bounds.**

ONE: We come together this night not in search of temporal joy,
but to seek the presence of the eternal Emmanuel.

ALL: **Let us light the candle now, so we may light our candles later.**

ONE: So that we can sing with assurance that all is calm amid this season of disruption.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† HYMN

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!” *(Continued on next page)*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (INSPIRED BY MATTHEW 1:18-25)

Shari Freeman

Eternal Emmanuel, this season has often been shaped by distance and virtual connection. Tonight, you remind us that your name means, "God is with us." Like Joseph, we ask that you awaken us from our sleep, for we continually find ourselves in a state of disruption. Like Joseph, we long to dismiss disruption, to take control of our lives. As we gather with the chaos all around, as we change plans and grow frustrated, help us to see you in the disruption. Help us this night to see that you come to bring eternal hope, an eternal Word, and your eternal light. For that is the essence and the meaning of Emmanuel. Not to deliver worldly control to us, but to embody the hope, the Word, and the light. Help us to see your truth is timeless. Allow your angels to descend from the darkness beaming with a great light, so that we can be assured that you are here, you are present, and even in our brokenness, you are the redeemer of the world...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

"Gloria in excelsis Deo"

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

† PARADE OF THE ANIMALS

HYMN

"The First Nowell"

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. *(to refrain)*

And by the light of that same star, Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. *(to refrain)*

This star drew nigh to the northwest; O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay. *(to refrain)*

Then entered in those wise men three, Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in His presence, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *(to refrain)*

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught, And with His blood our life hath bought. *(to refrain)*

✠ THE WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

HOMILY

Eternal Emmanuel

✠ RESPONSE ✠

† HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.
He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.

OFFERTORY

"O Holy Night"

Matthias Young, Tenor

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

*Tonight's offering benefits our ministry partner, 'Family Promise,'
who provide emergency shelter for families with children who are facing a housing crisis.*

† DOXOLOGY

"These Gifts We Joyfully Bring to You"

GREENSLEEVES

These gifts we joyfully bring to you to fill the world with meaning;
our hearts and minds are longing for the life of which you are dreaming.
This, this our gift we bring, our lives we share, your praise we sing;
Show us your vision, Lord, for hope and peace and caring.

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Shari Freeman

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

† SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

† HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Dr. Kenneth Sass

Johann Schop (c. 1590 – 1667) • Harm. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)



Leading Tonight's Worship Service

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

Brass Trio

John Arnold & Peter Barry, Trumpet
Sean Mack, Trombone

*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