



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**JANUARY 2, 2022 ✠ 10:30 AM**

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

**✠ GATHERING ✠**

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**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

† **CHALKING OF THE DOOR**

† **OPENING HYMN**

**“We Three Kings of Orient Are”**

**THREE KINGS OF ORIENT**

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!  
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!  
Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, we are raising, Worshipping God Most High.  
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!  
Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!  
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!

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

ONE: Arise, shine; for your light has come!

ALL: **The glory of the Lord has appeared among us.**

ONE: Tell the good news throughout the earth:

ALL: **The saving grace of Jesus Christ is for all.**

ONE: Come and adore the Savior of the nations.

ALL: **We offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.**

† MORNING SONG #411

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God  
Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captive's liberty,  
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the brokenhearted ones  
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God's pow'r will make us strong.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. Forgive us for turning from your way, for denying your trust, for resisting the life you would have us live. Refresh us and restore us. Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on us, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ... (*Silent confession*) Amen.

† 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.

✠ THE WORD ✠

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

HOMILY

*Eternal Joy*

## ✠ RESPONSE ✠

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### † SONG IN RESPONSE

“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

What star is this, with beams so bright, More lovely than the noonday light?

’Tis sent to announce a newborn King, Glad tidings of our God to bring.

’Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, “From Jacob shall a star proceed”;

And lo! the Eastern sages stand To read in heaven the Lord’s command.

O Jesus, while the star of grace Impels us on to seek Your face,  
Let not our slothful hearts refuse The guidance of Your light to use.

To God the Father, God the Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
May every tongue and nation raise An endless song of thankful praise.

### † 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

## ✠ SENDING ✠

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### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL

#### “As with Gladness Men of Old”

DIX

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most glorious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

### † BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

### POSTLUDE

#### “Petit Poucet”

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Ryan Sawyer



#### Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor  
Matthias Young, Director of Worship  
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern  
Ryan Sawyer, Guest Pianist

We are located at  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy, NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328  
[mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org)



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

# MVPC Announcements....



**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](http://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:



January 9 Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Mark1:1-11, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

January 16 "...and of the Son", Matthew 3:13-17, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**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:** Joy to the World! The Lord is come! Stephen Ministers may be the ones you need when you feel joyless in a joyful world. They listen and hear your concerns and sorrow in a non-judgmental, unconditional, one-on-one relationship that will help you gain perspective, clarify goals, find new coping strategies, and begin rebuilding a healthy life. Essentially they bring the longed-for hope and joy. Please call a minister or Stephen Leader, Pat Bartee, to begin that relationship.

**January Communion Offering** will be non-perishable foods for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center (CAC). Please bring donations to the church at any time in January to help re-stock their shelves after the busy holiday season.

January 2, 2022



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

**Conversation (Adult Sunday School):** Will not meet today. Discovery will meet via Zoom..

**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 lessons 4 and 5 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, John Moran, Alistair Morine, Beverly Northrop, Richard Player, Rob Southard, Katie Spotloe, Dave Whitacre, and vulnerable families

**Attendance:** 12/24 191(Outdoor), 68(online), 23(livestream)

**CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JANUARY 3**

Giving



### Financial Update

December 23-29	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 6,051	\$511,608	\$438,290
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 700	\$ 44,543	\$ 70,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 20	\$ 11,078	\$ 6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,771</b>	<b>\$567,229</b>	<b>\$ 514,290</b>

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