



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 16, 2022 ✠ 10:30 AM

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

✠ GATHERING ✠

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

ONE: Baptism is the beginning of the journey.

ALL: By entering the waters of the Jordan,

Jesus reveals how we must be cleansed to put on the clothes of Christ.

ONE: Let us witness this day what it means to see the spirit descending like a dove.

ALL: Let us witness this day what it means to be beloved, with whom God is well-pleased.

ONE: Let us continue on this path without undue haste nor undo delay.

ALL: For redemption, like the clouds, will open, and the light will shine brightly through Christ.

† MORNING SONG

“Gather Us In”

GATHER US IN

Here in this place new light is streaming Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of hope, so often we believe the vitality of a Church is correlated to the statistics it reports. The number saved, the money flowing in, the new members gained, and the amount of baptisms administered. Yet today we are reminded that redemption found at the font begins with discernment. Today, John the Baptist humbly reminds us that we should bow before Christ and consent to his sovereignty before we focus on our whims and achievements. For being baptized into Christ means we live into our own humanity- in tension with our knowledge, doubts, hopes, and fears. Invite us then to not celebrate what we put on paper, invite us to celebrate what we recognize when in the course of time we come to the font to be baptized or to remember our baptism. For that time is reserved for God's choosing, and not ours, and for that we give eternal thanks and praise...

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Lord, Prepare Me”

SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

✠ THE WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:13-17

HOMILY

...and of the Son...

✠ RESPONSE ✠

† SONG IN RESPONSE

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

TRENTHAM

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will, To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life Of Thine eternity.

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

By humble submission to John's baptism, Christ joined himself to men and women in their need and entered upon his ministry of reconciliation in the power of the Spirit. Christian baptism marks the receiving of the same Spirit by all his people. Baptism with water represents not only cleansing from sin, but a dying with Christ and a joyful rising with him to new life. It commits all Christians to die each day to sin and to live for righteousness. In baptism, the church celebrates the renewal of the covenant with which God has bound us to God's very self. By baptism, individuals are publicly received into the church to share in its life and ministry, and the church becomes responsible for their training and support in Christian discipleship. When those baptized are infants, the congregation, as well as the parents, has a special obligation to nurture them in the Christian life, leading them to make, by a public profession, a personal response to the love of God shown forth in their baptism.

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Finale”
Eugene Gigout (1844-1925)

Dr. Kenneth 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 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....



WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG

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.

Return to the Sanctuary: We look forward to worshipping with you when we return to the Sanctuary next **Sunday, January 23**. Please read the updated Covid Guidelines we sent via email or you can review them on the bottom of the homepage of 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:



January 23 “...and of the Holy Spirit”, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

January 30 “For All of You Share in God’s Grace”, Philippians 2:1-11, Elder Installation & Ordination, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Stephen Ministry: Much like the people wandering in the wilderness, we, here in 2022 are in a Covid revisitation, are so discouraged by the news and find ourselves likewise dazed and confused. Add to that angst, educational issues, keeping a business afloat, readjusting to an office environment or at home, changing jobs, a health issue, or a recent loss of spouse, significant other, parent, child, or the move of a good friend. It all becomes overwhelming. At MVPC, you are not left to handle such stress alone. Please contact a minister or Pat Bartee, Stephen Ministry Leader, to get a companion to walk with you, listening and helping you clarify next steps. It can be a good start to a new year.

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 16, 2022



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

Youth in January:

January 16: S'mores by the fire at Gailey Hall from 5-6pm - *Weather Permitting*

January 23: Gailey Hall - Prepare for Youth Sunday

January 30: Gailey Hall - Prepare for Youth Sunday

February 6: Youth Sunday at 10:30am!!

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



In January the Day Circle and the Sunday Circle met together on Tuesday, January 11. They studied lessons 4 and 5 about the Book of Ruth from the Horizons Bible Study. To be safe, the meeting was held via Zoom. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, January 14 at 10:00 and discuss *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult.

Save the date! Nancy Dimmock will speak with us after the service on February 6. Nancy Miller Dimmock is a second-generation missionary. She was born and raised in the Belgian Congo (now DRC) and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho. She and her husband Frank served for 30 years with the Presbyterian Church in Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia. Nancy is now retired and living in Decatur, but she is actively working with the Ministry of Hope Lesotho. The presentation will be online or by videoconferencing - we will provide more information soon.

The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom Winter issue is now available. You can pick up a copy in the Narthex or you can find it on the website in the 2022 Archives.

Prayer Concerns: Carol Beckman, Inez Cole, Bruce Hagenau, Alistair Morine, Beverly Northrop, Richard Player, Rob Southard, Katie Spotloe, Dave Whitacre, and vulnerable families, Zambia, Los Niños Primero, CAC, Family Promise

Attendance: 1/9 140(online)

Giving



Financial Update

January 1-12, 2022	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$50,362	\$ 50,362	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 245	\$ 245	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,000
Total	\$50,607	\$ 50,607	\$ 519,000

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