



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 13, 2022 ✠ 10:30 AM

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

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

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### RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Abernethy

ONE: Welcome to a house of worship that knows our brokenness

ALL: We confront it every day with an awakened and engaged commitment to God

ONE: Welcome to our community that knows God's forgiveness

ALL: We rejoice in it every week by the living waters poured out for us

ONE: Welcome to our worship that rests on hope and reconciliation

ALL: We pursue it in each moment with love, just like God loves us.

ONE: Welcome, and let us worship God!

### † MORNING SONG

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O praise him, alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice,  
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one,  
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### † PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Abernethy

Merciful God, each of our paths of discipleship twist and turn in pursuit of you.

Some twists seem easier to handle than others, some seem to keep us moving in circles.

Some are just assumptions that we will get there in the end, so what's the point of trying so hard?

Oh God, we confess that we do not always understand true discipleship.

Guide us; walk us to the daily practices of prayers and study with old and new friends;

point out the twists and turns that you will join us on. Equip us to sense our faith anew each day.

Restore us in you...Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Abernethy

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Abernethy

*(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 ✠

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:42-47

HOMILY

*Lifelong Discipleship*

✠ RESPONSE ✠

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† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (FROM *THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR*)

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

We believe that God’s lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God’s lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

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.

† SONG IN RESPONSE

“If Ye Love Me”

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) + Arr. Crawford R. Thoburn

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

David Barclift

## ✠ SENDING ✠

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### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL

#### “Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

### POSTLUDE

#### “Chaconne”

Dr. Kenneth Sass

Louis Couperin (c. 1626-1661)



#### Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Dr. Kenneth Sass, Principal Organist

Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

*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](http://mvpchurch.org)



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

# MVPC Announcements....

## 3 Ways to Watch!

[mvpchurch.org/watch/](http://mvpchurch.org/watch/)

Facebook Page

YouTube Channel



[WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG)

**Welcome!** We are glad to worship with you in the Sanctuary today. 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.



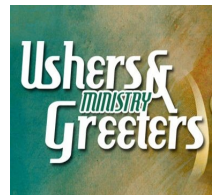
## Upcoming Services:



February 20 "Intentional Authentic Evangelism", John 4:1-41, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

February 27 "Outward Incarnational Focus", Luke 19:1-10, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Ushers:** Are you interested in becoming an usher but want to know more? Contact one of the ministers for more information.



**Greeters:** The Witness Committee wants to develop a greeter program. Please contact Angie Hawthorne or the church office if interested.

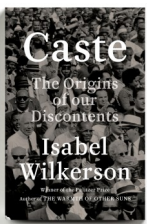
## February Events:

Winter Dinner & Variety Show: Sunday, February 20, 6-8pm (**SignUp Genius on website**)

**Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 27, 9:30am** (Bylaws are available to be picked up in the Narthex.)

Burn the Palms: Sunday, February 27, 11:30am

Inquirers Lunch: Sunday, February 27, noon



We are partnering with local Jewish and Christian congregations, as well as the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library Foundation, to take part in a 6-week study of Isabel Wilkerson's book *Caste*, an award-winning work about current issues of race and class in America. This program will be similar to the "Reclaiming the Center" from a few years ago, and will bring diverse congregations together for conversation and community building. This group will meet on Thursdays 6-8:30pm, February 17- March 24, at rotating locations among the congregations involved. Sign ups are in the Narthex, or reach out to Rev. Toney-Schmitt.

**February 13, 2022**



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

Giving



## Youth:

**February 13** Super Bowl Party, Gailey Hall, 6:30-halftime

**February 20** Join us at the Dinner & Variety Show!

**February Communion Offering** is for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, a Presbyterian-affiliated homeless shelter and transitional housing facility in the Lake Claire neighborhood of Atlanta. A list of most needed items are inserted in the bulletin.



**Stephen Ministry:** "One of the most beautiful gifts in the world is the gift of encouragement. When someone encourages you, that person helps you over a threshold you might otherwise never have crossed on your own." John O'Donohue If you need a companion to listen and encourage you as you traverse loss, deal with a disappointing diagnosis, battle feelings of isolation and faith, find it hard to start over in a new place, have difficulty operating in this intermittent Covid world or whatever myriad ways difficulty strikes at our core, ask for a Stephen Minister. Call a pastor or call Pat Barte, Stephen Leader, to get started this very week.

**Conversation (Adult Sunday School):** Crossroads meets in the Session Room, and Discovery meets in the Chapel and are using the book "The Present Word".

**Family Promise:** It's time again for us to host Family Promise the week of March 6! Please use the SignUp Genius on the website to signup. *"Greetings to Congregation B'Nai Torah, Dunwoody Community Church, and Mount Vernon Presbyterian members and valued volunteers. We are looking forward to welcoming the Howard family back for a week beginning Sunday, March 6. (Setup is scheduled for Saturday, March 5 and will be completed on the 6th just before the family arrives.)"*

**PW:** Immediately after the service **TODAY** there will be a video presentation by Nancy Dimmock in the Sanctuary. 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 can also be viewed from the church website.

**Circle of Grace** will meet on Sunday, February 27 at JoAnn Fifield's home.

**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:** Pat Barte, Carol Beckman, Bruce Hagenau, Alistair Morine, Shelly Ray, Rob Southard, Dave Whitacre, and vulnerable families, Zambia, Los Niños Primero, CAC, Family Promise

**Attendance:** 2/6 86(Sanctuary), 44 (online)

## Financial Update

February 1-8	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$14,595	\$ 87,705	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 2,160	\$ 3,480	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 375	\$ 1,990	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,130</b>	<b>\$ 93,175</b>	<b>\$ 519,000</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)