



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 20, 2022 ✠ 10:30 AM

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

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

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GATHERING MUSIC

Matthias Young

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Hannah Hagenau

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

ONE: Evangelism...

ALL: Oh no! Do we have to talk about it?

ONE: Yes. Yes we do. What is it?

ALL: It's more than just holding the door open.

ONE: Okay. So what is it?

ALL: It's more than reciting verse after verse.

ONE: Go on. Say more...

ALL: It's about relationship! Fostering not just committees, but community.

ONE: What is this community called to do?

ALL: Share the good news—the grace—of Jesus Christ.

ONE: Well in that spirit Mount Vernon...

ALL: Let us worship God!

† OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

† MORNING SONG

“Step By Step”

STEP BY STEP

O God You are my God

And I will ever praise You

O God You are my God

And I will ever praise You

I will seek You in the morning

And I will learn to walk in Your ways

And step by step You'll lead me

And I will follow You all of my days

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

God in Christ who meets us at the well, often we hear the word evangelism,  
and we believe it is a call to tell others what they need to hear.  
As we gather this day, we ask that you give us ears to hear  
so that we may hear the sound of the genuine in others.  
Let us hear from this particular place the voices of those who surround us—  
in this sanctuary, this neighborhood, this city, this country, and this world.  
Let us hear these voices, and remind us that as we listen we know we are hearing words that,  
like our own, are created by you.  
As we do this let us hear the word evangelism anew, not as solely a call to speak,  
but just as important, a call to listen...*(silent confession)*...Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

*(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. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

John 4:1-41

...Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him,

ALL: Rabbi, eat something.

...So the disciples said to one another,

ALL: Surely no one has brought him something to eat?

HOMILY

*Mark Two: Intentional Authentic Evangelism*

## ✠ RESPONSE ✠

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### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967 9.34-9.36)

Rev. Abernethy

The institutions of the people of God change and vary as their mission requires in different times and places. The unity of the church is compatible with a wide variety of forms, but it is hidden and distorted when variant forms are allowed to harden into sectarian divisions, exclusive denominations, and rival factions.

Wherever the church exists, its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world.

The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.

*Refrain*

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me. By your side I will seek other seas.

You need my hands, full of caring, through my labors to give others rest  
and constant love that keeps on loving. *(to refrain)*

You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me: *(to refrain)*

### † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bob Addison

## ✠ SENDING ✠

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### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL

**"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"**

**I'M GONNA LIVE**

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

### PARTING MUSIC

Matthias Young



### 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**

*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.



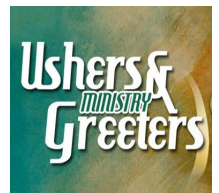
## Upcoming Services:



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

March 6 "Empower Servant Leadership", Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**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.

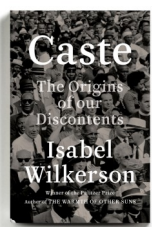
## February Events:

Winter Dinner & Variety Show: **TONIGHT** February 20, 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall

**Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 27, 9:30am** (Agenda & 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 20, 2022**



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

Giving



## Youth:

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

**Lent Small Groups** are forming now! Be sure to sign up in the Narthex.

**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 in the Narthex.



**Stephen Ministry:** Watching the Olympics inspires us as we see athletes overcome overwhelming odds to find Olympic success. In real life, it is often not so. We aren't athletes and things seem to be tilted against us. At MVPC, we offer a hand to help anyone struggling to see daylight. Our Stephen Ministers stand ready to walk through the darkness with you and see you out into the light. Please call a minister or Pat Barte. Stephen Leader to begin this 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.)"*



**Presbyterian Women:** In March, the **Day Circle** will meet on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the **Sunday Circle** will meet on the 13<sup>th</sup>. They will study lesson 6, *Bathsheba*, in our Bible study guide, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*.

The **Circle of Grace** will be meeting at JoAnn Fifiield's home on February 27 at 5:00. E-mail [beppielever@earthlink.net](mailto:beppielever@earthlink.net) for details.

**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

**Happy 100th Birthday to Laura Snipes as seen on NBC's "Today Show" on Friday!**

## Financial Update

February 9-16	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$11,478	\$ 99,183	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 385	\$ 3,865	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 0	\$ 1,770	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,863</b>	<b>\$104,818</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)