



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

FEBRUARY 27, 2022 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Jesus told Zacchaeus, "Come down from the tree so I can stay in your house."

ALL: **The People said, "Jesus is going to be a guest of a sinner."**

ONE: That "sinner" then told Jesus, "Half of my possessions will go to the poor."

ALL: **He also told Jesus, "I will pay back anyone I have defrauded four times over."**

ONE: Seeking out the one in trees cannot only change their life, it can change the church as well.

ALL: **Let us be filled with curiosity and courage this day as we worship God!**

ONE: Let us witness how Christ changes church!

† OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

† MORNING SONG

"Come! Live in the Light!"

We Are Called

*(Choir)*

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the Joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice; we are called to

Love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

*(Congregation)*

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and

Violence will be no more.

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;

we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and

Brothers united in love.

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;

we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Written & composed by David Haas in 1988, this piece focuses on the challenge found in Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." An appropriate reminder as we look outward in our vital congregation sermon series.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Boundless God, we come to you this day longing to seek outward. Through the many seasons you have led us, and by this trust in you we have witnessed children thrive, adults find peace, and joy find an outlet through faith and the flourishing of gifts. There are times, however, when we fail to see this truth. When we fall for the temptation to draw inward. It's easy to do that as the church gets smaller and we long for comfort and familiarity. Let us not be content. Let us be energetic for the next incarnation. Dear God, you invite us to constantly turn, to seek the eternal vision not yet realized. We know it is near, so grant us to perseverance to keep looking, keep turning, and to keep seeking your justice in this world...

† 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/PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

HOMILY

*Mark Three: Outward Incarnational Focus*

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Confession of 1967, 9.53 and 9.55)

Rev. Abernethy

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes the natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin.

It is the will of God that the divine purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from creation .

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Written by Presbyterians amid the social movements of the 1960's, the Confession of 1967 is meant to celebrate God reconciling hope when God's people see change happening fast. This excerpt speaks to this hope as we find ourselves in a similar moment.

### † SONG IN RESPONSE

“And the Glory of the Lord”

G.F. Handel (1685-1759) • Arr. Hal H. Hopson

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORDS 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

*(After the first verse, we invite everyone to follow the Choir to recess to the courtyard to burn the palms as we prepare for Ash Wednesday.)*

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL **"We Are One in the Spirit"**

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored;  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
By our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land;  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
By our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other; we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride;  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
By our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from who all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one;  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
By our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Written in a single day by a Catholic Priest in 1966, this song was composed for a youth choir on the south side of Chicago. Father Peter Scholtes wanted the choir to offer hope at ecumenical and interracial events as the Civil Rights movement gained momentum.

### BURNING OF THE PALMS *(outdoors, see insert)*

#### 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 thank you for worshipping with us today.  
If you are so moved and would like to give a tithe or offering,  
there are collection places as you exit.*

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,  
go to the Visitor's Table to pick up a visitor bag and a little gift  
and someone will be there to greet you.*

We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sand Springs, GA 30328  
mvpchurch.org



Our mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 76051  
Sand 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:



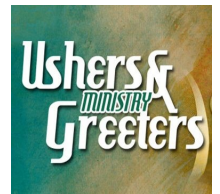
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| March 2  | Ash Wednesday, Pancake Supper (5:30pm), Worship Service (6:15pm), Rev. Barrett Abernethy |
| March 6  | "Empower Servant Leadership", John 13:3-17, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt                     |
| March 13 | "Spirit-Inspired Worship", Hebrews 4:12-16, Shari Freeman                                |



**Family Promise:** We need you! They will be here next Sunday, March 6! Please use the SignUp Genius on the church website to signup.

**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.



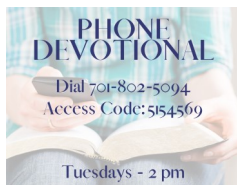
## February Events:

Burning of the Palms: **TODAY**

Inquirers Lunch: **TODAY**

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

**February 27, 2022**



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

Giving



## Youth: Spring Break!



**Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministers are imperfect lay people who have trained to be useful and encouraging to other imperfect people. They engage in unconditional, caring, confidential, one-on-one relationships that help clarify issues and goals and rekindle joy. If you are temporarily struggling with loss, grief, mild depression, loneliness, or any other debilitating angst, please let us walk through it with you. Call a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Ministry Leader, for help.

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



**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 Fifield's home TODAY 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 Bartee, Bruce Hagenau, Alistair Morine, Rob Southard, Dave Whitacre, and vulnerable families, Zambia, Los Niños Primero, CAC, Family Promise

**Attendance:** 2/20 84(Sanctuary), 44(online)

## Financial Update

February 17-22	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 7,510	\$ 106,693	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 20	\$ 3,885	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 53	\$ 1,823	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,583</b>	<b>\$112,401</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)