



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 20, 2022 • 10:30 AM

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

## GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

**“Here I Am to Worship”**

Donna Maini

arr. Mark Hayes

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

John Allen

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Today, Paul tells us to:

**ALL: Bear one another's burdens; carry our own load; work for the good of all;**

ONE: We hear these calls and we are reminded that vital churches care for and hold each other accountable.

**ALL: Let our worship be an accounting of how we glorify God by caring for one another, for our communities, and for the world God created.**

ONE: Let us worship God!

† OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

† MORNING SONG

**“In Unity We Lift Our Song”**

EIN' FESTE BURG

In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration,  
for brothers brave and sister strong.

What cause for celebration!

For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress,  
who've shared with us our plight,

Who've held us in the night, the blessed congregation.

For sacred scriptures handed down, a blessed trust and treasure,  
Which give us hope when hope is gone and make us weep with pleasure.  
And when our eyes grow blind and death is close behind,  
we shall recite them still

Whose words our hearts can fill with hope beyond all measure.

For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the Giver.  
Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver.  
Who keeps us till the day when night shall pass away,  
when hate and fear are gone and all our work is done, and we shall sing forever.

While this line may seem contradictory, we are speaking the words of Galatians 6:2,5. Our focus passage and vital mark for today is *Caring Relationships*, which invites us to live in the tension of serving others while also going before God to account for the lives we have led.

While these lyrics date to 1994, the tune was written by Martin Luther, and is most known with the hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.” Today, we hearken to this familiar tune, to seek the vital hope we all seek in relationship with God and each other.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God who bears and carries, we come before you knowing we were created for the purpose of serving you and serving others. We know that sometimes we lift up our friends and neighbors in seasons of vulnerability and that when we do we achieve the vision of community you desire in this world. Often, however, we fail to carry out our calling. We tell people to build a bridge and bear the unbearable cross themselves. It's true that sometimes we don't have the strength to help build the bridge, but it's also true that there are times when we promote selfishness instead of empathy. Help us to disregard the transactional way of relationship, and invite us to seek the transformative way of serving each other. That's the Lenten spirit. That's the Christly spirit. Mold this spirit within us as we continue toward your cross and walk in your ways... (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

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

MORNING SONG

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” You taught us, Lord, to pray,  
But you alone can grant us grace, to live the words we say.”

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 6:1-10

HOMILY

*Mark Six: Caring Relationships*

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Brief Statement of Faith*)

Rev. Abernethy

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### 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

"Abide with Me"  
arr. Victor C. Johnson

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Carol Beckman

The Brief Statement was written in the aftermath of "Reunion." In 1983, the "Northern" and "Southern" Presbyterian denominations reunified as one body, the Presbyterian Church (USA). This statement is a foundational document, something that hopefully speaks a language that all Presbyterians can profess amid the diversity of faith expressed within our "big tent".

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL “Help Us Accept Each Other” BARONITA

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
Who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,  
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

“Sing Aloud to God, Our Strength ”  
by Robert Hughes

Donna Maini

#### Leading Today's Worship Service

**Rev. Barrett Abernethy**, Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt**, Associate Pastor  
**Matthias Young**, Director of Worship  
**Donna Maini**, Accompanist  
**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 offering plates 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  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328  
[mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org)



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

# MVPC Announcements....



**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**, 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:

- March 27 Outdoor Service, joint service with Mount Vernon School,  
Ezra 3:1, 10-13, Foundation & Incarnation, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
- April 3 Mark 7: Ecclesial Health, Matthew 15:1-9, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**Lent Calendar:** If you would like suggestions of what to do during lent, there is a calendar in the Narthex!

## April Events:

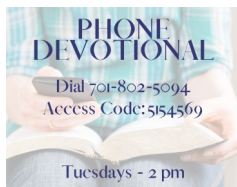
- April 3 Committees & Coffee, 9:30am
- April 10 Palm Sunday, Lunch and Egg Hunt
- April 11-15 Daily Devotional & Light Lunch (except Maundy Thursday) @ noon
- April 14 Maundy Thursday, Agape Meal in the Kirk Center
- April 17 Sunrise Service on the Patio 6:45am, Worship at 10:30am



The Witness Ministry Team invites you to share the MVPC message of Easter by sharing the invitations found in the Narthex. We ask that **"EACH ONE REACH ONE"**. These invitations share a photo of our annual glorious floral cross with all of the information needed to attend our multiple services and events on the back. Imagine doubling the size of our attendance!! We can do it!! Contact Dee for more invitations, as needed.

**Youth:** We're back! We meet TODAY at 5pm!

**March 20, 2022**



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

Giving



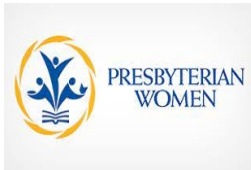
**Stephen Ministry:** Are you struggling with doubt, fear, isolation or illness? Are you dealing with loss and just cannot move forward? Do you have multiple things that plague you and immobilize you? Could you use a weekly visit (adjusted for Covid , as needed) of listening and hearing, reassurance, encouragement, and a new perspective ? Are you pleased to know you would have the same person every time who keeps all said between you confidential? Are you ready for relief and joy? Call a pastor or Pat Barte, Stephen leader to get started.

**March Communion Offering** is for the International Women's House, a shelter for abused refugee and immigrant women and their children. Please pick up one of the "Shopping for Outreach" blue bags in the Narthex on Sunday. A shopping list is attached to make it easier while you are at the store. Return items in the shopping bag and pickup a new empty bag for next month. You can now order online and have it delivered to the church.



**Family Promise/Meals with Meaning:** Thursday, March 24, 6-9pm, Temple Sinai

**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 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:** George Hammett, Amy Kiley, Alistair Morine, Beverly Northrop, Rob Southard, Dave Whitacre, and vulnerable families, Zambia, Los Niños Primero, CAC, Family Promise

**Attendance:** 3/13 90(Sanctuary), 7(online)

*Please sign the Attendance Pad and pass it down the pew as you greet your neighbor!*

## Financial Update

March 10-16	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$14,151	\$ 137,662	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 917	\$ 6,297	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 235	\$ 2,108	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,303</b>	<b>\$146,067</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)