



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 22, 2022 • 10:30 AM

Celebrated 40 days after Easter (May 26, 2022) The Ascension recalls Jesus going up to heaven and giving thanks for Christ's rule over all the earth. Presbyterians, led by John Calvin, have placed great importance on this day, for it affirms the sovereignty of God.

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

## GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

**"His Eye is on the Sparrow"**

Donna Maini

arr. Mark Hayes

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with songs of joy. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: God is ruler over all the earth; the Lord reigns on a holy throne. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: God put this power to work in Christ, raising him from the dead. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: God has highly exalted him, giving him the name above all names. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: Jesus Christ is Lord! Glory to God in the highest. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

### † MORNING SONG

**"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"**

MADRID

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend; to us He'll condescend;  
His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

In our modern understanding, to "condescend" is to act superior or patronizing to someone. In this case, God condescending is a celebration of God coming down to descend, to be with us, what the prefix "con" means. Psalm 138:6 says it this way, "For the Lord is high, he watches over the lowly."

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body...*(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

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

ALLELUIA No. 1

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His Name.

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. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:1-11

HOMILY

*Looking for a Hazy Day*

## RESPONSE

Written by the Westminster Assembly in the 1640's, the Westminster Confession of Faith and the two subsequent catechisms that came from it. The shorter (intended for children) and longer (to teach the Reformed Faith to parishioners), are the core of confessional statements for all manner of Presbyterians.

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Westminster Larger Catechism*)      Rev. Abernethy

How was Christ exalted in his ascension?

**Christ was exalted in his ascension in that, having often appeared to and conversed with his apostles after his resurrection, speaking to them of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God and giving them commission to preach the gospel to all nations, he visibly went up into the highest heavens forty days after his resurrection, in our nature and as our head, triumphing over his enemies. He went there to receive gifts for men, to raise up our affections to heaven, and to prepare a place for us, where he himself is and will continue until his second coming at the end of the world.**

### † HYMN

#### **“At the Name of Jesus” KING’S WESTON**

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him King of glory now;  
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;

Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign;  
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER INVITATION TO THE TABLE THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Abernethy  
Rev. Toney-Schmitt

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### **PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion. If you prefer a Covid Communion kit, let the pastor know. If you prefer to remain seated, an usher will bring communion to you.)*

**"Let Us Break Bread Together"**

**LET US BREAK BREAD**

Let us break bread together on our knees; Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees; Let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Lou Baine

**SENDING**

**† SONG FOR DISMISSAL      "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**  
**PRECIOUS LORD**

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;  
When my life is almost gone, hear my cry,  
Hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

**† BENEDICTION**

Rev. Abernethy

**POSTLUDE**

**"Thy Word"**  
Michael W. Smith

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

*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



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)

Help us out with our “Summer Song Series”! What is a hymn or song you want sung and for Barrett & Isaac to preach on?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**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:

May 29 Hymn Sing Celebrating the History of the Church

June 5 “Open Eyes, Open Heart”, Ephesians 1:11–23, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Ushers:** We resumed the practice of passing the offering plates during worship but we need more ushers. Please contact Kirk Chalpan or the church office if you would like to serve.

**Congregational Care** could use a few more volunteers willing to contribute a dish or casserole about 4–6 times a year. If you are willing to join one of our hospitality teams, please contact Pat Bartee at [pbartee@yahoo.com](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com) or leave a text message.

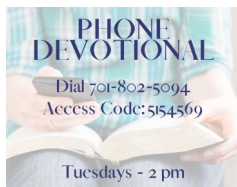


**Stephen Ministry:** There are all kinds of loss in life, loss of job or wealth, loss of a friend or a long-time home, loss of a child in death or leaving for college, loss of health or a healthy perspective, or the loss of a spouse. It takes a strong person to journey through grief alone. Our church provides a temporary companion for that hard, swampy journey who will listen, hear, and encourage you through to dry land. Please call on a Stephen Minister for those difficult times by contacting a minister or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.

**Connection Snacks:** Please sign up on the SignUp Genius on the website or let Debbie know what day you would like to bring snack through the end of July.



May 22, 2022



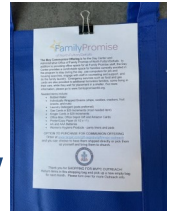
Make sure to follow us  
on social media to stay  
up to date!

Giving

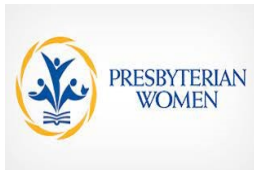


**Youth:** Congratulations to the Class of 2022! Have a great summer! We'll be back in August.

**May Communion Offering** is for the Day Center and Administrative Office of Family Promise which has recently relocated to the Roswell area. Please feel free to pick up a bag with a shopping list attached. Please bring your donations by **Sunday, May 29**.



**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:** Presbyterian Women concluded our Horizons Bible Study in May. Pat Davis led our study of Lesson Eight "Mary in the Faith and Tradition of the Church. The Book Circle met last Friday and reviewed "The Killer Angels" by author Michael Shaara." Have a great summer! PW will resume on **Sunday, August 28** with our Salad Luncheon and Officer Installation.

**The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom** Spring/Summer issue will be available in May.

**MVP Foundation:** Join us in our "\$22K for 2022" matching campaign! We have a wonderful donor willing to match dollar for dollar up to \$22K. To date we have received \$12K. The MVP Foundation has provided over \$500,000 to various mission partners such as our Youth Group, Los Niños, CAC, as well as the Intern Program here at MVPC.

**Ways to Connect:** Are you on our mailing list for the weekly *Happenings* email? How about the monthly newsletter *The Good News*? If not and you would like to receive them, send an email to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)

**Prayer Concerns:** Geoff Freeman, Mrs. JB, Jeannie Lee, Rev. Asa Meadows, Alistair Morine, Irene Nelson, Beverly Northrop, Rob Southard, Dave Whitacre, people of Ukraine, and vulnerable families, Zambia, Los Niños Primero, CAC, Family Promise

**Attendance:** 5/15 10:30 Worship 91  
Online 8

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

### Financial Update

| May 12-19                             | Actual          | Actual YTD       | 2022 Budget       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Pledge Member Giving                  | \$ 8,872        | \$ 221,857       | \$449,000         |
| Member Giving Non-Pledge              | \$ 10           | \$ 18,777        | \$ 60,000         |
| Non Member Giving &<br>Loose Offering | \$ 60           | \$ 4,921         | \$ 10,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>\$ 8,942</b> | <b>\$245,555</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)