



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**JULY 31, 2022 • 10:30 AM**

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

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

***“Symphony No. 2”, Variations 1-3***  
Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Ryan Sawyer

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(It is said that on the first Sunday the poem Amazing Grace was offered, there was no music. Thus, the first congregation, Olney Church, England, likely chanted the words instead of singing them.)*

ONE: Amazing Grace,

**ALL: How sweet the sound,**

ONE: That saved a wretch like me!

**ALL: I once was lost,**

ONE: but now am found,

**ALL: Was blind,**

ONE: but now I see.

**ALL: Let us worship the One who offers this Amazing Grace!**

† **MORNING SONG**

***“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”***  
**AMAZING GRACE**

Originally titled “Faith’s Review and Expectation”, writer and priest John Newton wrote this poem for New Year’s Day worship, 1773. A former slave trader, Newton knew intimately how grace “saved a wretch like me.”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Looking back on his young adulthood, John Newton described himself as “an infidel and libertine.” His life is a reminder that God longs to walk with us, to reveal the depth of grace and redemption.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(inspired by the life of John Newton)*

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

God of grace, you continue to reveal that your power to redeem knows no bounds. Today we are reminded that you can reconcile us even when we would enslave another and claim ourselves as superior to another of your creations. Thank you God for teaching our hearts to fear and giving us grace so that those fears may be relieved. Grant us courage today to express grace in bountiful ways. Grant us courage to let go of that which separates the body of Christ, whether it be hate and anger, selfishness and hubris, or pride and privilege. Let us know that our time as individuals is short, and that we are called to be a part of the great communion, to shine bright for 10,000 years, singing and rejoicing in God! Let us live into that grace and let us share it with the world...*(silent confession)*...Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

AMAZING GRACE

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

1 Chronicles 17:16-17

HOMILY

*Faith’s Review and Expectation*

## RESPONSE

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

Rev. Abernethy

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

### 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.

### OFFERTORY

**"I Love to Dwell in Spirit"**  
David Moritz Michael (1751-1827)

Dr. Roger Scanlan, Tenor

I love to dwell in spirit where my Lord Jesus is,  
and where my heart enjoyeth all comfort and all bliss;  
He leads me to remember He bore the Cross for me;  
and speaks: "Thy soul's salvation then came through Me to thee!"

I kneel and pray before Him, "My Lord, I worship Thee;  
and always I'll remember what Thou hast done for me!"  
My heart is filled with gladness and tears, I weep for joy;  
My guilt has been amended, Christ washed my sins away,  
He has my soul redeemed and washed my sins away.

### † DOXOLOGY

**"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**  
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gene Elder

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL

**“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”**

Chris Tomlin

Chris Tomlin wrote this song for the 2007 film “Amazing Grace”. The movie chronicles the life of William Wilberforce, a member of the British Parliament, who was influenced by John Newton to push for the abolition of the slave trade.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

### † BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Pictures from Crimea, Mvt. 1*  
Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881)

Rev. Abernethy

Ryan Sawyer

Leading Today's Worship Service  
**Rev. Barrett Abernethy**, Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt**, Associate Pastor  
**Matthias Young**, Director of Worship  
**Ryan Sawyer**, Guest 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](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)

Hymn idea? Let us know what you want to sing!

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

**Welcome!** We are glad to worship with you 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.



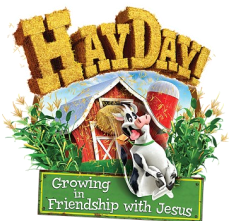
## Upcoming Services:



August 7 Philippians 1:12-30, "Mine is Jesus, Assurance Blessed!",  
Rev. Barrett Abernethy

August 14 VBS – Back to School

**Saturday VBS!** Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to our one day HayDay VBS on Saturday, **August 13** from 9:30am – 3:00pm. Kids will be up to their elbows in farmin' fun as they explore one simple Bible truth: Jesus will always love us! We can't wait to see you there! We have 26 signed up! If you would like to help, please let Meg Christian or Isaac know. Register at: [www.myvbs.org/mvpc2022/](http://www.myvbs.org/mvpc2022/)



**Child Protection Training:** All children and youth volunteers should plan to attend one of our child protection trainings. **TODAY @ 11:30 OR August 9 @ 4:00**

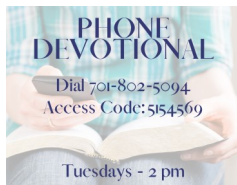
**Stephen Ministry:** Are you having difficulty holding all the pieces together? Sometimes things get to be too much. It might be the tiniest event that topples you. Please contact Stephen Ministry and we can provide you a skilled layperson companion who can listen and hear you, give you strategies and coping mechanisms, and help you move through difficulty to higher ground. Contact a minister or Pat Barte, Stephen Leader, to get involved.

**Connection Snacks:** We have just a few slots open. SignUp Genius is on our website or you sign up in the Narthex. Thank you to the ones who have signed up and brought snacks!



**Senior Adults:** Please join us for brunch at First Watch in Dunwoody Village on **Sunday, August 11** after worship. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

**July 31, 2022**



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

Giving



**Ministry Team Cards:** these cards include events August–October are available to be picked up in the Narthex.

**Conversation (Adult Sunday School):** Discovery meets in the Chapel and are using the book “The Present Word”. Crossroads is taking the summer off and will return in September.



**July Communion Offering:** We are collecting school supplies for Sandy Springs Education Force and Stirred-Up Ministries. Stirred-Up Ministries offers year-round support to East Lake area of Atlanta youth and their families. Sandy Springs Education Force (in partnership with the Community Assistance Center) offers a Teacher Supply Closet for teachers in the Sandy Springs schools to order supplies for economically disadvantaged students throughout the school year.

**Presbyterian Women:** PW will resume on **Sunday, August 28** with our Salad Luncheon and Officer Installation.

**The MVPC Members’ Gift of Wisdom** Spring/Summer issue is available in the Narthex and Information Centers.

**Atlanta Concert Band: August 13 at 3:30pm,** Roswell Cultural Arts Center.  
More info: John Hibbard



**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.



**Do you feel a need for prayer?** Have our Prayer Vine pray for you! Email your requests to [pbartee@yahoo.com](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

**Prayer Concerns:** Carolyn Ashby, Mrs. JB, James Ballew, Nicole Brown, Neill Ferrill, Patti Gambrell, Jeannie Lee, Alistair Morine, Irene Nelson, Beverly Northrop, Sibyl Plumly, Karla Schultz, Rob Southard, Dave Whitacre, Yvonne White and her family, people of Ukraine, Zambia

**Attendance:** 7/24    Worship    72  
                                 Online        15

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

### Financial Update

| July 20-27                            | Actual          | Actual YTD        | 2022 Budget       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Pledge Member Giving                  | \$ 8,790        | \$ 309,182        | \$449,000         |
| Member Giving Non-Pledge              | \$ 1,010        | \$ 22,376         | \$ 60,000         |
| Non Member Giving &<br>Loose Offering | \$ 10           | \$ 5,969          | \$ 10,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>\$ 9,810</b> | <b>\$ 337,527</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@mvpcchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpcchurch.org)