



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 • 10:30 AM

† For those who are able, please stand.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"Arioso" from *Cantata 156*
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & MINUTE FOR MISSION

Simon Kanyembo
Daisy Muzukutwa

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: On this Sunday we are reminded that the church goes far beyond these walls!

ALL: **Indeed, God's alliance with Christ's children extends everywhere!**

ONE: On this Sunday, let us celebrate our partnership and our connection.

ALL: **A commitment we share to see children grow up safe,**

ONE: Families to become a fulcrum of strength,

ALL: **And communities to become sustainable. Let us worship God in this mission!**

† MORNING SONG #429

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"
ABBOT'S LEIGH

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity;

Refrain:

With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community; *(refrain)*

Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us share your children's liberty; *(refrain)*

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society; *(refrain)*

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
And, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity;
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry. *(refrain)*

This Call to
Worship lives
into the goal of
Alliance for
Children
Everywhere:
ACE helps
Zambian moms
and caregivers
raise SAFE
KIDS, grow
STRONG
families, and
build
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of all people, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you invite us to extend hospitality in radical and extravagant ways. You speak of a law and you tell of prophets who declare that we should love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. Often, we recite this language in places like this, but just as often, we forget its meaning, and we choose to love ourselves alone and we choose to ignore our neighbor. On this day that we are reminded of this truth, compel us once again to the joy found in radical hospitality:

the opportunity to share a table in hopes of witnessing a shared belief,

the glimpse of the heavenly realm that we see when a child is given the chance to thrive,

the grace found when we realize that despite our difference what unites us is the common calling that dwells within all our hearts, souls, and minds.

Grant us this collective strength, we pray, to live out your command, and to always remember the actions that you first enacted ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

CHEREPONI

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with Your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from You.

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with you. *(refrain)*

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

Gabriel Walder

SELECTED READINGS

Matthew 11:28, 19:14

John 15:1-4

HOMILY

“Come as a Child”

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from The Belhar Confession)*

Shari Freeman

We believe

- ✦ that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- ✦ that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- ✦ that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- ✦ that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- ✦ that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right.

The Belhar Confession is the only confession in our *Book of Confessions* to originate from the African continent. It is a calling from our South African Christian friends to be reconciled to one another despite our worldly differences.

OFFERTORY

“Bread of Heaven”

David Ashley White

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed for thy Flesh is meat indeed;
ever may our souls be fed with this true and living Bread;
day by day with strength supplied through the life of Him who died.

Vine of heaven, thy Blood supplies this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give, to thy cross we look and live:
Jesu, may we ever be grafted, rooted, built in thee.

† 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

Pat Davis

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Shari Freeman

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 elder will bring communion to you.)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning” BEACH SPRING

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God’s name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God’s delight.

As a green bud in the spring-time is a sign of life renewed,
So may we be signs of one-ness ‘mid earth’s peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
May our lives reflect the radiance of God’s new and glorious dawn.

Hymn writer
Ruth Duck
used biblical
imagery and
her own
experience to
frame these
lyrics. She
follows the
belief that as a
fire is meant
for burning, so
the church is
meant for
loving. In her
view, mission
is its cause and
its life. A
fitting end to
our service
today.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Allegro" Op. 5, No. 3
Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)"

Donna Maini

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

Gabriel Walder, Chief Executive Officer of Alliance for Children Everywhere

Simon Kanyembo, Director of Social Services for Alliance for Children Everywhere, Zambia

Daisy Muzukutwa, Country Director for Alliance for Children Everywhere, Zambia

*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/

Facebook Page

YouTube Channel



WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG

Hymn idea? Sermon idea?
Let us know what you want
to hear!

1. _____
2. _____

Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!

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:



October 2 Deuteronomy 11:18–21, “*Sola Scriptura*”, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

October 9 Romans 3:21–28, “*Sola Fide*”, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Two Called Congregational Meetings: TODAY after worship to elect new church officers; and Sunday, **October 16** after worship, we will discuss business matters concerning the new HVAC system in the Sanctuary.

Fall Small Groups: Sign up for a 6 week small group beginning TODAY! Signup sheets and information about the curriculums are located in the Narthex.

Conversation (Adult Sunday School): Discovery meets in the Chapel and are using the book “The Present Word”. Crossroads is studying “Mere Christianity” by C. S. Lewis. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.

Senior Adults: Fall Outing to North Georgia on **Saturday, October 22** with stops in Tallulah Gorge, lunch at Sky Valley, Highlands Bascomb Art Center, and Jaemor Farms. Sign up in the Narthex!

Volunteer Help Needed! One of the outreach ministries MVPC supports is the Sandy Springs Education Force. On October 22 the SSEF annual Lightning 5K/10K race will be held. We need volunteers to assist with the race for several hours that morning. The work will be fun and easy. David Hill is the race course volunteer coordinator. Let David know you are willing to help – see him after the service or email him at david.hill321@comcast.net.

Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, October 2 from 2–4pm at Gailey Hall. Also, please bring non-perishable food to benefit Stirred Up Ministries and the “Stuff the Bus” event in November. Suggested items: canned fruits & vegetables, canned soups, cereal, peanut butter/jelly, mac/cheese, rice.



Inquirer's Lunch: Are you new to MVPC and have questions? Join us for lunch on **Sunday, October 9** after worship to have all your questions answered!

September 25, 2022



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The Sunday Circle met on Sunday, September 11 and the Day Circle met on Tuesday, September 13. They studied lesson 1, *Sabbath and Celebration*, in our study guide, *Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. The Book Circle met on September 9 and reviewed *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. Information for the Circle of Grace will come later.

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

The September Communion Offering is for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center. CAC provides basic needs assistance for Dunwoody and Sandy Springs neighbors to prevent homelessness and hunger while promoting self-sufficiency and empowering them to thrive. There has been an increased need for personal items at the Food Pantry. For more information, please go to www.ourcac.org.



Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministers believe in the power of relationships to help people through rough patches, grief, and when facing what seem like mountains. Having a partner to walk through it with you, sharing the problem, eases that burden. When the partner is a skilled, trained layperson, the experience is magnified. Please utilize the relief and power available by contacting a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.

The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom: Fall issue is available in the Narthex and Information Centers.

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 or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

Prayer Concerns: Mrs. JB, James Ballew, Dee Bradford-Smith, Nicole Brown, John Robert Christian, Eliana, Allison Eustis, Neill Ferrill, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Rob Southard, Wilma Turner, Dave Whitacre, Jeannie Lee, and people of Ukraine, and Zambia.

Attendance: 9/18 Outdoor Worship 89
Online 22

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

Financial Update

September 16–22	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$10,650	\$ 368,896	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 350	\$ 32,903	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 10	\$ 6,546	\$ 10,000
Total	\$11,010	\$408,345	\$ 519,000

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to debbie@mvpchurch.org