



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 2, 2022 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"Softly and Tenderly"
arr. Phillip Keveren

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Sola Scriptura!

ALL: **Scripture Alone!**

ONE: As we begin our celebration of the Reformation, may we heed the words of Martin Luther this day,

ALL: **"The Bible is the cradle in which Christ lies."**

ONE: May our hearts be centered by this Word.

ALL: **May the Word be central to our lives. Let us worship God!**

Each Sunday during October we will celebrate the "5 Solas" of the Reformation which began on October 31, 1517.

† **MORNING SONG #260**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
EIN' FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

The hymn most associated with the Reformation, "A Mighty Fortress" was written by Martin Luther in 1529. Based on Psalm 46, the hymn shares many of the same attributes as its writer: bold, confident, and defiant in the face of opposition.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, we come this day longing for the scriptures you breathe forth to dwell within our hearts and minds, and compel our hands and feet. Often we chide ourselves for ignoring your Word or feeling overwhelmed by its meaning. That can deter us from wanting to grow in our faith. Remind us, Gracious God, that such feelings should not move us to isolation, but rather to the understanding that living into your Word is to be done in community. For scripture alone embodies a wisdom beyond one or all, so continue to invite us into those moments of solitude with you, and then lead us to grow from those moments when we gather together ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

SOLID ROCK

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand;

All other ground is sinking sand,

All other ground is sinking sand.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Sam Brasher

APOSTLES' CREED *(page 14 of the blue hymnal)*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Shari Freeman

† 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

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

HOMILY

“Sola Scriptura”

Ever wonder why the scripture and sermon are in the middle of a Presbyterian service? It is because as reformed Christians, we believe in the centrality of the Word.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from The Second Helvetic Confession)*

Rev. Abernethy

We believe and confess the canonical Scriptures of the holy prophets and apostles of both Testaments to be the true Word of God, and to have sufficient authority of themselves, not of men. For God spoke to the fathers, prophets, apostles, and still speaks to us through the Holy Scriptures. And in this Holy Scripture, the universal Church of Christ has the most complete exposition of all that pertains to a saving faith, and also to the framing of a life acceptable to God; and in this respect it is expressly commanded by God that nothing be either added to or taken from the same.

HYMN #379

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, by anchor holds within the veil. *(refrain)*

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. *(refrain)*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. *(refrain)*

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gail Williams

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

Rev. Abernethy
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

“I Love to Tell the Story” HANKEY

Mount Vernon Side

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain (Everyone):

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Johnson Ferry Side

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. (*refrain*)

Everyone

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. (*refrain*)

This well known hymn by Englishwoman Katherine Hankey was originally a poem about the life of Christ. In 1867 verses of the poem were taken and put into music to tell how the old story of Sola Scriptura invites us back again and again.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“When I Look into Your Holiness”
with “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”
arr. Cindy Berry

Donna Maini

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Matthias Young, Director of Worship

Donna Maini, Accompanist

Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

*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 9 (Outdoor)

Romans 3:21-28, “*Sola Fide*”, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

October 16

John 3:1-21, “*Sola Gratia*”, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Congregational Meeting: On Sunday, **October 16** after worship we will discuss business matters concerning the new HVAC system in the Sanctuary.

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 Day Trip 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!

The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received on **Sunday, October 2**. One of four annual offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA), 25% of the proceeds from this offering will go to Atlanta Ministry with International Students (AMIS) with the remainder going to the General Assembly to fund programs that promote peacemaking and reconciliation. More info: specialofferings.pcusa.org

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 a new member or visitor to MVPC with questions? Join us for lunch on **Sunday, October 9** after worship to have all your questions answered!

October 2, 2022



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: In October the **Day Circle** will meet on the 11th and the **Sunday Circle** will meet on the 9th. They will study lesson 2, *Sabbath and Creation*, in the Bible study guide. The **Book Circle** will meet on the 14th and review *October American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. In September the **Circle of Grace** met at the home of Lisa Cumming. Information for October will come soon.

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

The October Communion Offering is snacks and treats for Lake Forest Elementary School Fall Celebrations. Lake Forest is a Title 1 Dual Language public school in Sandy Springs. Most of the students there are on Free or Reduced Lunch. The list of most needed items is on the blue bags in the Narthex.



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, Eliana, Neill Ferrill, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Rob Southard, Wilma Turner, Dave Whitacre, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of **John Robert Christian**, son of John & Meg, who died on 9/24. A memorial service will beheld on Saturday, October 8 at 2pm with a reception to follow.

Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of **Jeannie Lee** who died 9/21 in Florida.

Attendance: 9/25 Outdoor Worship 100
Online 33

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

Financial Update

September 23–28	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 6,881	\$ 375,777	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 1,040	\$ 33,943	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 173	\$ 6,719	\$ 10,000
Total	\$8,094	\$416,439	\$ 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