



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 9, 2022 + 10:30 AM - OUTDOOR

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"Because I Have Been Given Much"

Donna Maini

arr. Jason Tonioli

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

John Hibbard

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Sola Fide!

ALL: Faith Alone!

ONE: Today we gather with the goodness of creation to rejoice in our collective faith in Christ.

ALL: A faith that is not stagnant, but constantly in motion.

ONE: Let us be moved if we find ourselves at a low point.

ALL: Let us be moved if we find ourselves at a mountaintop.

ONE: For we are both righteous and unrighteous.

ALL: In our brokenness, we are justified by faith! Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

DIX

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light. *(refrain)*

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight. *(refrain)*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. *(refrain)*

For Thy Church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love. *(refrain)*

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

John Calvin's definition of faith is alluded to in this confession, "Faith is a firm and certain knowledge of God's benevolence towards us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise of Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts, through the Holy Spirit."

Faithful God, you continue to welcome and greet us with the peace of your son, Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, our faith in you is feeble and we do not share this peace with the world. Instead of seeking assurance through your Spirit, we seek assurances from a world that claims to know what will make us happy. What we find is that worldly gratification is fleeting. Help us to see it is not the works that will justify us in God's eyes, rather it is faith alone. A firm and certain knowledge that God is present in our lives and in the lives of all around us. Grant us this peace, we pray, and let us carry that faith along our journey... (*silent confession*) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

"Morning Has Broken"

BUNESSAN

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning,
Praise for the springing fresh from the Word!

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

Romans 3:21-28

But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

HOMILY

"Sola Fide"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

Rev. Abernethy

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presbyterians confess our faith as a way to profess what we believe. Today we return to one of the earliest and definitely most well-known confession: the Apostles' Creed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Shari Freeman

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.

† HYMN

MEDLEY

“Awesome God”

“How Great is Our God”

“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love
Our God is an awesome God

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

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

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” LEMMEL

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free!

Refrain

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of His glory and grace.

Thro' death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there;
Over us sin no more hath dominion -
for more than conquerors we are! (*refrain*)

His word shall not fail you - He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well; Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell! (*refrain*)

Performed by many artists over the years, this song was originally written in 1922, when Helen Lemmel read a story about missionary Lilas Trotter. Trotter wanted to give up life as an artist to serve God in the north African desert. Though she got no support from any mission agency, she followed her faith and served God there for 40 years.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Let Everything That Has Breath” arr. Mark Hayes

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

*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 16

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

October 23

John 8:12-20, "*Solus Christus*", 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. Deadline to sign up and pay \$25 for lunch is Sunday, October 16. 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.



Inquirer's Lunch: Are you a new member or visitor to MVPC with questions? Join us for lunch **TODAY** in the Kirk Center after worship to have all your questions answered!

Join us **Sunday, October 23** at 4pm for our Annual Pumpkin Palooza! There will be family activities including pumpkin decorating, cake walk, and other family fun activities for all ages!



October 9, 2022



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet Tuesday, October 11, at 10:00 in the Chapel. The **Sunday Circle** will meet Sunday, October 9, in the Session Room. They will study lesson 2, *Sabbath and Creation*, in the Bible study guide, *Celebrating Sabbath*. The **Book Circle** will meet on the 14th and review *October American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. The **Circle of Grace** will meet again on November 13. We still have a few copies available of the Bible study guide. Contact Ann Williams if you would like a copy.

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, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

Attendance: 10/2 Worship 93
 Online 14

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

Financial Update

September 29–30	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 3,649	\$ 379,426	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 1,000	\$ 34,943	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 0	\$ 6,719	\$ 10,000
Total	\$4,649	\$421,088	\$ 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