



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 16, 2022 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"No Other Name/Hallelujah!"
arr. Cindy Berry

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Carrie Southard

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Sola Gratia!

ALL: **Grace Alone!**

ONE: Grace that overwhelms darkness.

ALL: **Grace that spreads light everywhere!**

ONE: Today Jesus welcomes us into the light.

ALL: **Let us receive it! Let us embody it! Let us share it! Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #425 "Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining**
ABBOT'S LEIGH

Lord of light, Your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
Use our talents in Your kingdom as the servants of Your grace;
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ Your Son:

Refrain:

Abba, as in highest heaven,
So on earth Your will be done.

By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,
By the courage where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,
By the victories of meekness, through reproach and suffering won: *(refrain)*

Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at Your feet may lowly kneel;
With Your grace our triumphs hallow, with Your charity our zeal;
Lift the nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun: *(refrain)*

B the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night;
By the cross of Jesus, bringing peace to all and healing light;
By the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one: *(refrain)*

The 3rd Sola of the Reformation explores grace. Consider these words from Pastors Ted Foote & Alex Thornburg, "The world needs to be less concerned with their own personal salvation & more concerned with sharing God's grace. We were saved a long time ago, and we are saved every day, and we will be saved in the future. Grace is our word - a good one too."

† PRAYER OF GRACE

Shari Freeman

God of Grace and God of Glory, we see your grace:

When you welcome us in the dark of night.
When you move like the wind and are present in our lives.
When you share the love of eternal life.
When you send your Son to redeem a broken world.
When you offer us the gift of light.

God of Grace and God of Glory, continue to pour out this power upon your people.
Inspire us to feel the radiance of your Son, and encourage us to not fight your spirit,
for when the winds are at our back we can soar to new heights and new
understandings of the faith you bestow. Guide us to the celebration of everlasting life
and lead us to the place of *sola gratia*, grace alone and grace unbound.... (*silent*
confession) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are given grace.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #420 From "God of Grace and God of Glory" CWM RHONDDA

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac 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.)

I was inspired by the book *Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt* to preach on grace using this passage. I was given this book as a senior in high school by my pastor and read it during my freshman year of college. It was a grounding and formative read.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-21

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Nicene Creed*)

Rev. Abernethy

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

† HYMN #555

“Now Thank We All Our God”
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Anna Morine

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

"Better is One Day"

Matt Redman

(see insert)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"This is the Threefold Truth"

arr. Mary Ellen Kerrick

Donna Maini

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Book of Order, which guides all Presbyterian churches in how they construct and carry out their mission to serve God, directs churches to hold congregational meetings when calling a pastor, electing new elders, or in this case, "buying, mortgaging, or selling real property." Today the church considers whether it should take out a loan to get a new HVAC for the sanctuary building.

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

Favorite/Least favorite scriptures or passages of the Bible?

Favorite: _____

Least: _____

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 23

John 8:12-20, "Solus Christus", Rev. Barrett Abernethy

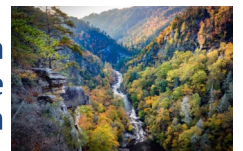
October 30

"Soli Deo Gloria" Glory to God Alone, Reformation/All Saints' Day, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

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. We have plenty of room on the bus for you! The scenery should be fantastic. **Deadline** to sign up and pay \$25 for lunch is TODAY, 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.



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

October 16, 2022



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: 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: 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. **Deadline to bring the snacks & treats is Sunday, Oct. 23.**



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, Christian Family, Eliana, Neill Ferrill, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Jerniyah Paris, Rob Southard, Wilma Turner, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

Attendance: 10/9 Outdoor Worship 79
Online 24

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

Financial Update

October 1-10	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 11,914	\$ 391,340	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 420	\$ 35,363	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 60	\$ 6,779	\$ 10,000
Total	\$12,394	\$433,482	\$ 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