



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**OCTOBER 23, 2022 • 10:30 AM**

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

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**" Sweet Hour of Prayer/Abide with Me"**  
Arr. Michele Murray

Donna Maini

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**STEWARDSHIP MINUTE**

Charlie Gray

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Solus Christus.

ALL: **In Christ Alone.**

ONE: Today we celebrate that your judgment comes not from condemnation, but of righteousness.

ALL: **The righteousness of God who sent Christ into the world to be the light of the world.**

ONE: Let that light lead us to Christ alone this day.

ALL: **Solus Christus! Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #417 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"**  
**REGENT SQUARE**

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,  
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;  
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call You, come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
With Your wonted lovingkindness hear Your people as they pray.  
And Your fullest benediction shed within its walls away.

Here bestow to all Your servants what they ask of You to gain,  
What they gain from You forever with the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in Your glory evermore with You to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,  
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one;  
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

Our Stewardship campaign, *Serving the Community*, formally concludes today. Stewardship is a spiritual gift, and in that spirit, we encourage you to steward and to serve beyond any one season. Thank you for your time, your talent, your treasure, and your continued exercise of these gifts we receive from God.

This prayer is inspired by scholar and author Gene March, who writes, "The story that the Bible tells is of the divine love extended to all, and excludes no one. God's love powered the creation of all that is and continues to shape the world and those that inhabit it."

## † PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God in Christ, today we are reminded that only Christ's judgment is valid. Often, we forget this truth. Instead of singing "Jesus *loves me*" we have increasingly proclaimed that "Jesus *loves me*." Forgive us of our self-centeredness, and inspire us to the faith you testify to this day. A faith that matches this sanctuary devoted to you.

That lifts up to the heavens like these ceilings.  
That bellows aloud to the angels like these organ pipes.  
That sees beauty in every shape and color like these windows.  
That welcomes one more like this table.  
That proclaims boldly like this pulpit.

Help us to be that people. To focus on Christ's truth and not on our own.  
.... (*silent confession*) ... Amen.

## † ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## † RESPONSE

**"In Christ Alone"**

arr. Matthias Young

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

## 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

John 8:12-20

### HOMILY

"*Solus Christus*"

This homily was inspired by Gene March's book *The Wide, Wide Circle of Divine Love*. Hopefully the illustration of Howard Baskerville will further illuminate how wide that love extends.

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Confession of 1967*)

Rev. Abernethy

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for man. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work. The risen Christ is the Savior for all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations. 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.

### OFFERTORY

#### "God So Loved the World"

John Stainer (1840-1901)

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoso believeth in Him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;  
but that the world through Him might be saved.

*You are invited to return your pledge card as we conclude our Stewardship Campaign.*

### † DOXOLOGY

### † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Charlie Gray

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL

**"In Christ Alone"**

arr. Matthias Young

In Christ alone who took on flesh fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death this is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home here in the power of Christ I'll stand

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

**" Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"**

Donna Maini

arr. Dick Torrans

### 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](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)

Favorite/Least favorite scriptures or passages of the Bible?

Favorite: \_\_\_\_\_

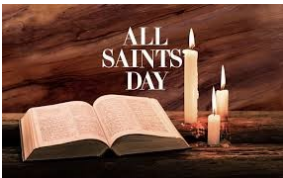
Least: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Visitors & Membership:** Please go to our website: [mvpchurch.org](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:



October 30 "Soli Deo Gloria" Glory to God Alone, Reformation/All Saints' Day,  
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

November 6 Outdoor, "The Beauty of Unity", Ephesians 4:1-16,  
Rev. Barrett Abernethy

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

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



**Presbyterian Women:** In November the **Day Circle** will meet November 8 in the Chapel; and the **Sunday Circle** will meet in the Chapel on November 13. They will study Lesson 4, *Sabbath and Sunday*, in the Bible study guide, *Celebrating Sabbath*. The **Circle of Grace** will meet on November 13 at the home of Carrie Southard. Also, don't miss the PW cake walk at Pumpkin Palooza TODAY!

**Youth:** We meet on Sundays from 5-6:30pm at Gailey Hall. We provide dinner, activity, and a lesson for the youth. We need volunteers to provide dinners. Please contact Isaac to sign up.

Today formally concludes our stewardship campaign, *Serving the Community*. During the offertory, you are invited to return your pledge card back to God as we prepare to carry out our mission to serve the community in 2023. If you are not able to return your card today, please feel free to mail it back or drop it off at the church office. You can also fill out your pledge online at [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org).

**October 23, 2022**



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

Giving



**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 TODAY.**



**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.

**Ways to Connect:** Are you on our mailing list for the weekly *Happenings* email? How about the monthly newsletter *The Good News*? If not and you would like to receive them, send an email to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)

**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:** Mrs. JB, James Ballew, Dee Bradford-Smith, Nicole Brown, Christian Family, Eliana, Neill Ferrill, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Jerniyah Paris, Elaine Rawlings, Wilma Schmidt, Rob Southard, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

**Attendance:** 10/16    Worship    91  
                                 Online        30

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

## Financial Update

October 11-18	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 11,709	\$ 403,049	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 35,363	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 30	\$ 6,809	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,739</b>	<b>\$445,221</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@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)