



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 6, 2022 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“He Keeps Me Singing”
arr. Cindy Berry

Donna Maini

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Stan Williams

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: As head of the church Christ,

ALL: Speak your truth to us in love.

ONE: With each movement of our brush,

ALL: You lead us to reimagine our faith.

ONE: As Paul reminds us this day, let us not be crafted by the trickery of people,

ALL: Rather let us be engrafted by the lines that reveal your Word. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG**

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”
“Here I Am to Worship”
arr. Matthias Young

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

“Here I Am to Worship”

Light of the world you stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
hope of a life spent with You

Chorus:

Here I am to worship here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above humbly
You came to the earth
You created all for love's sake became poor (*chorus*)

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of hope, the one who binds up the broken-hearted, we come to you seeking wholeness this day. Too often, during this season of TV ads and mailings, we are told that the dominion we find at the ballot box is what should define us. This is a false prophecy. The only dominion that should define our lives is the love of Christ Jesus. For as we are reminded today, that love comes to us as a blank canvas, longing to paint a portrait that reveals how hardened hearts can be cracked open to reveal the bright color of empathy and unity. Let us boldly this day and week exercise the liberty we receive through you, but within that liberty let us be reminded that Christian freedom does not lead us to isolate because of difference. Rather it should lead us to spaces like this to engage in our differences, to hopefully see an image that the ads and mailings want us to forget, or even an image we have never seen before ...
(silent confession) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Shari Freeman

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

† RESPONSE #386

“O for a World”
AZMON

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Shari Freeman

(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward for storytelling and prayer. Afterwards all are invited to Children's Church on the patio.)

† 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.)

This hymn, written by Roman Catholic Nun Miriam Winter, was composed for the 1982 Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference. A church I attended in seminary in Austin, TX would close every service with these words.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:1-16

HOMILY

“The Beauty of Unity”

RESPONSE

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

Rev. Abernethy

We believe:

that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted. Amen.

† HYMN #438

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

John Fawcett, an English Baptist minister, wrote this hymn after nearly leaving his small parish for a wealthier London church. It's said his wife did not want to leave and compelled him to stay. This hymn has now been sung when congregations struggle with unity for over 300 years.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Ben Cumming

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Shari Freeman

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 #358 “Help Us Accept Each Other”

BARONITA

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Theologian Gene March writes, “In modern society there are no simple answers to serious questions. People of goodwill can and will disagree about proposed solutions. The first kind of talking that Christians need to do has to do with clarifying our own understanding of God, to discover how we fit in with others also created by God.”

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Be Still and Know”

“Day by Day”

arr. Melody Bober

Rev. Abernethy

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

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:



November 13 "Affordable Housing", 2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

November 20 "Christus Rex I (King Christ I)", Matthew 25:31–46, 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.

Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** and the **Sunday Circle** are meeting together on Tuesday, November 8 at 10am in the Chapel. They will study Lesson 4, *Sabbath and Surrender*, in the Bible study guide, *Celebrating Sabbath*. The **Circle of Grace** will meet on November 13 at the home of Carrie Southard. The **Book Circle** will meet on November 11 at 10am in the Session room and review *The Flawed Family of God* by Carol Heisel and Suzie Park.

Youth: We are looking forward to The Presbytery Middle School Retreat at Camp Calvin (Nov. 4–6), and the Senior High Camping trip to North Georgia (Nov. 11–13).

Pledge Card: It's not too late to turn in your pledge card! Please feel free to mail it to the church or drop it off at the church office. You can also fill out your pledge online at mvpchurch.org.

These Days Daily Devotions for Oct-Dec are available in the narthex and in the church office. The November–December **Upper Room** is also available in the Information Centers and in the Narthex. Pick one up and one to share with a friend!

Senior Adults: Join us for brunch at J. Christopher's on Sunday, November 13 after worship. Sign up in the Narthex, contact Mary Kilgore at mnk1936@gmail.com, or call her at 404.259.4036. Deadline: November 11

November 6, 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 November Communion Offering will continue one of our congregation's longest outreach traditions (more than 25 years!) by collecting non-perishable food items for Stirred-Up Ministries to distribute in Thanksgiving baskets for vulnerable families in the East Lake area of Atlanta. Stirred-Up Ministries is a year-round enrichment program for at-risk youth providing summer sports camps, tutoring, mentoring, and family counseling designed to help the kids succeed in school and embrace God's vision and purpose for their lives.



Stephen Ministry: Fall's dimmer light, falling leaves, crisper days, and autumnal deeper coloring often drive human spirits lower. Nostalgia for happier days and more productive ones prevail. If grief, an empty nest, an unhappy move, a shocking diagnosis, a sudden job loss, or just a real difficult time finding clarity are bringing you down, please let our Stephen Ministers assist you. They offer a confidential, one-on-one relationship to bring you hope and encouragement and will walk with you as you tackle tough issues in your life. Contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get started.



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

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, Nicole Brown, Eliana, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Jerniyah Paris, Elaine Rawlings, Wilma Schmidt, Rob Southard, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

Attendance: 10/30 Worship 103
 Online 46

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

Financial Update

October 27-31	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 9,257	\$ 415,857	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 261	\$ 42,100	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 75	\$ 7,156	\$ 10,000
Total	\$ 9,593	\$455,520	\$ 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