



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 13, 2022 ✦ 10:30 AM

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

## ✦ GATHERING ✦

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GATHERING MUSIC

**"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" with  
"He Has Made Me Glad"**  
Arr. Carol Tornquist

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Francis Horton  
Executive Director, CAC

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Today the church acknowledges homelessness,

ALL: **Let us remember that this is the household of God.**

ONE: Today the church acknowledges hunger,

ALL: **Let us remember whose body was broken for us.**

ONE: Today the church longs to witness the eradication of hunger and homelessness.

ALL: **Let us share in the abundance we find. Let us worship God!**

### † MORNING SONG #361

**"How Firm a Foundation"**  
FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said, To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

Every year on this Sunday, the PCUSA recognizes Hunger & Homelessness. This is in conjunction with Hunger & Homelessness Week happening now across the country. Today, let us explore and engage our calling to serve those hungry & those facing eviction in our community & beyond.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of refuge and strength, we come before you on this day longing to live into your vision of abundance that we witness at places like your table, your font, and your pulpit. Yet far too often we witness this world through dollars and cents and we equate abundance with prosperity and one's worth with their ability to pay. Yet as we look around we see hard working people from all backgrounds struggling to keep a roof, and a variety of mental anxieties forcing neighbors to despair. On this day that you teach us the importance of honoring our friend's household, we ask that you remind us that you are the refuge and you are the strength. Lead us to support and not chastise those in despair. Lead them here to the household of your son, Jesus Christ, and give them the security of a warm home when they leave this place. So that they can continue to work hard. So that they can continue to focus on their mental health. So that they can truly know their worth is defined not by their bank account but by the blessing we receive from you...*(silent confession)*...Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #432

**"Song of Hope"**  
ARGENTINA

May the God of hope go with us every day, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Shari Freeman

*(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward for storytelling and prayer.)*

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

*(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.  
(Children may depart and meet in the Narthex.)*

✠ THE WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 11:26–12:13

HOMILY

*Affordable Housing*

This scripture & sermon was inspired by a sermon I heard from Rev. Rebecca Barnes, the coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

## ✠ RESPONSE ✠

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### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*adapted from the Confession of 1967*)

Rev. Abernethy

The reconciliation of humanity through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation. Because Jesus identified himself with the needy and exploited, the cause of the world's poor is the cause of his disciples. The church cannot condone poverty, whether it is the product of unjust social structures, exploitation of the defenseless, lack of national resources, absence of technological understanding, or rapid expansion of populations. The church calls on humanity to use their abilities, possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to them by God for the maintenance of the family and the advancement of the common welfare. It encourages those forces in human society that raise hope for better conditions and provide people with opportunity for a decent living. A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God. Amen.

### 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.

### OFFERTORY

#### "Can You Drink the Cup?"

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

*Can you drink the cup, embrace it in your hands? Can you look inside and face what it demands?  
In the wine you see reflections of your soul. No one else can drink this cup that you must hold.*

*Can you drink the cup? Then you must lift it high, though this cup of joy holds pain and sacrifice.  
When you lift your cup, raise it unafraid. Lift it up, this cup of life and celebrate.*

*Can you drink the cup until there is no more? When the wine is gone, Christ Himself will pour.  
Though you drink it all, the cup is never dry. God keeps filling it with everlasting life.*

### † DOXOLOGY

#### "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Louise Lord

## ✠ SENDING ✠

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### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL

#### “Big House”

Audio Adrenaline, Arr. Matthias Young

I don't know where you lay your head Or where you call your home  
I don't know where you eat your meals Or where you talk on the phone

I don't know if you got a cook A butler or a maid  
I don't know if you got a yard With a hammock in the shade

I don't know if you got some shelter Say a place to hide  
I don't know if you live with friends In whom you can confide

I don't know if you got a fam'ly Say a mom or dad  
I don't know if you feel love at all But I bet you wish you had

#### *Chorus*

Come and go with me To my Father's house Come and go with me To my Father's house  
It's a big big house With lots and lots of room A big big table With lots and lots of food  
It's a big big yard Where we can play football A big big house It's my Father's house

All I know is a big ol' house With rooms for ev'ryone

All I know is a- lots of land Where we can play and run

All I know is you need love And I've got a family

All I know is you're all alone So why not come with me (*to chorus*)

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

#### “Prelude in Classic Style”

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

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 with a little gift  
and someone will be there to greet you.*

We are located at  
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