



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Discovery Sunday School Class

ONE: At the beginning of the Advent Season,

ALL: **Darkness covers all.**

ONE: Thankfully we meet the Angel Gabriel who comes declaring,

ALL: **“Do not be afraid, Mary, you will conceive and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.”**

ONE: Gabriel embodies why we light this candle.

ALL: **Bringing the light of hope amid the dark beginning. Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG #22

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

Refrain

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; Yonder shines the infant light: *(refrain)*

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. *(refrain)*

The Advent candles represent light growing in darkness - leading up to the coming of Jesus Christ. This Advent, different groups at MVPC will light the candles each week.

† PRAYER OF HOPE

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Hopeful beginnings, as we enter this Advent season, we put our trust in you as our source of hope. We lift up to you our need of hope in times of despair, in seasons of stress and challenge, and in this bleak and often depressing world. Remind us this day and every day of your promises of hope. You promised hope to the Israelites, and you kept your promise. You promised hope in the coming of your son, and he was the hope for the world. You promised hope to the early church, and that hope was not denied. You promise hope to us, and we pray for your continued faithfulness. Let us trust in the hope that can only come from you as we enter this season of Advent ...
(silent confession) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF HOPE

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

† RESPONSE #379 v.2 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” SOLID ROCK

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

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

† 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.)

Today is not just the first week of Advent, it is also the first Sunday of the Christian year. The Christian year starts with four weeks of Advent focused on the arrival of Christ and ends the following November with a celebration of the reign of Christ.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38

HOMILY

Characters of Christmas: Angel Gabriel

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Confession of 1967 9.54-9.55*)

Shari Freeman

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists God's will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. Amen.

The Confession of 1967 invites us to look for God's active presence in the world and to respond to God's coming kingdom through concrete acts of love and justice.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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.

SONG IN RESPONSE #2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Glenn & Charlie Grove

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“The King of Glory Comes”

(see insert)

Refrain

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. *(refrain)*

In all of Galilee, in city or village,
He goes among his people curing their illness. *(refrain)*

Sing then of David's son, our Savior and brother;
In all of Galilee was never another. *(refrain)*

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

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....



WWW.MVPCCHURCH.ORG

Zooming Thru The Carols

Nov. 28	Joy to the World	Isaac
Nov. 29	Believe (Polar Express)	Barrett
Nov. 30	Let There Be Peace on Earth	Barrett
Dec. 1	O Holy Night	Matthias
Dec. 2	We Three Kings	Shari

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:



December 4

"Characters of Christmas – Joseph", Matthew 1:18–25, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

December 11

"Characters of Christmas – Mary", Luke 1:39–56, Shari Freeman

Hanging of the Greens: **TODAY** @ 5pm in the Sanctuary. Brunswick Stew dinner will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



Children's Christmas Workshop: All children ages 4–fifth grade are invited on **Saturday, December 3** from 10am – 1pm in Gailey Hall for some fun including crafts, games, a movie, and a pizza lunch! Please RSVP to Isaac@mvpchurch.org



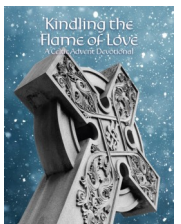
Save the date! The Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon will be on **December 11** after the morning service in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$20, and we will be taking reservations for the next couple of Sundays. Deadline: Dec. 6

Adopt a Family: The CAC Program Holiday connects families who need assistance with people who would like to spread some joy during the holiday season. Families who qualify for the program provide a wish list for their children and the donors "adopt" the families to provide holiday gifts. The generosity of donors and volunteers helps to bring some holiday cheer for families and their children. If you would like to adopt a family or have questions, please contact CAC at adoptafamily@ourcac.org



Senior Adults: Join us for lunch and a White Elephant Gift Exchange, Saturday, Dec. 10 at 12:30pm in the Kirk Center.

2022 Advent Devotional Calendar from the PCUSA is available on our website or contact the office for a copy.



November 27, 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 MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom: Winter issue will be available in January.

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.

The December Communion Offering will be toys/gifts for the International Women's House Santa Shop.



Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministry offers one-on-one, confidential assistance from a trained and skilled layperson when one is in a temporary difficult spot. Sharing a burden tends to reduce its' impact and helps clarify the issue and "unmuddy" the water. Stephen Ministers stay with you until you have weathered the storm, providing support, encouragement, and hope. If you or a friend need this kind of relationship, please contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.

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 \$20,465. 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: Tisa Edge and her daughter Jordan Glover, Neill Ferrill, Craig Mackie, Mrs. JB, James Ballew, Eliana, Alistair & Karen Morine, Elaine Rawlings, Wilma Schmidt, Rob Southard, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

Memorial Service for Mary Frances Walker will be December 3 at 2:00pm

Christian Sympathy to the Baine family on the death of Lou Baine on November 18. The service is planned for Sunday, January 8 at 1pm.

It's not too late to turn in your Pledge Card! We have many ways to turn it in: mail it, put it in offering plate on Sunday, drop it off at the church office, email it to Yvonne@mvpchurch.org, call Yvonne (404.255.2211 ext. 216), or complete online @ mvpchurch.org. As of November 22, we have received 70 pledge cards for \$409,275.

Attendance: 11/20 Worship 106
Online 37

Financial Update

November 18-22	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 6,415	\$ 439,257	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 100	\$ 42,650	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 39	\$ 7,401	\$ 10,000
Total	\$ 6,554	\$ 489,308	\$ 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