



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**LESSONS & CAROLS**  
**DECEMBER 18, 2022 + 10:30 AM**

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

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**"For Unto Us"**  
arr. Keith Christopher

Donna Maini

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

† **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #49 "Once in Royal David's City"**  
**IRBY**

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us He grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness, and He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols service began in 1880 at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, U.K. It follows the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus.

† **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Choir

ONE: Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice!

**ALL: Hark the herald of congregations sing!**

ONE: Of earth receiving her king!

**ALL: Whether it be the little town of Bethlehem or the mighty city of Atlanta.**

ONE: Let us declare, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"!

**ALL: And let us welcome him by lighting the candle of love. For Love Incarnate is coming! Let us worship God!**

**WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† HYMN #51

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

HUMILITY

**Choir** See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

*Refrain*

**Congregation** Hail! that ever-blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

**Choir** Say, you holy shepherds, say, tell your joyful news today.  
Why have you now left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? (*refrain*)

**Choir** As we watched at dead of night, there appeared a wondrous light;  
Angels singing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Savior's birth. (*refrain*)

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Ryan Sawyer

† HYMN #9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (*refrain*)

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (*refrain*)

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Ryan Sawyer

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

Choir

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Kate Christian

† HYMN #38

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.*

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

The 3rd verse in particular reveals how this hymn focuses on the life of the average person. The writer, Edmund Sears, was concerned with the social situation in the U.S. in the mid-19th century, contrasting that with the peaceful hope the angels sing.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Kate Christian

† HYMN #28

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart, and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Hannah Hagenau  
Choir

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Hannah Hagenau

† HYMN #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:

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations; Ye have seen His natal star.

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

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Gill Christian

† HYMN #25

“Away in a Manger”

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Gill Christian

OFFERTORY

“Coventry Carol”

Choir

Some theologians have said that Christ not crying in verse 2 is heresy, since we believe Christ to be fully human, and a crying baby is a sign of his humanity. What do you think?

† 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

Marguerite Nelson

THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

† HYMN #44

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God our King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Angels We Have Heard on High

Donna Maini

arr. Harold deCou

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

College Readers

Gill Christian

Kate Christian

Hannah Hagenau

Ryan Sawyer

*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

Dec. 19	Mary Did You Know	Isaac
Dec. 20	Angels We Have Heard on High	Barrett
Dec. 21	Do You Hear What I Hear	Barrett
Dec. 22	The Holly and the Ivy	Matthias
Dec. 23	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Shari

*Contact the office if you are not receiving the daily email with the Zoom link.*

**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:



<b>December 24</b>	Christmas Eve, "Characters of Christmas: Jesus Christ", Luke 2:1-7 Live Nativity - 4:45pm Worship - 5:30pm
<b>December 25</b>	"Characters of Christmas: The Shepherds", Luke 2:8-20, Rev. Abernethy
<b>January 1, 2023</b>	"Characters of Christmas: The Wise Men", Chalking of the Door, Matthew 2:1-12, Shari Freeman

**Congregational Meeting: TODAY** after worship.

**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](mailto:adoptafamily@ourcac.org)

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

**Family Promise:** We are looking forward to hosting two families at MVPC beginning **TODAY** with their departure scheduled for late morning on Saturday, December 24. Look for ways to sign up with a link in the weekly Happenings email.

**Senior Adults:** Mystery Matinee Event and clues to a Spring Seniors' Day Trip (Sat. March 25), Saturday, January 28 at 1:00pm in Session Room. Popcorn and drink provided. Sign ups for the March 25 Day Trip (3 stops in a 15 seat van) will be at the Mystery Matinee Event.

**Christmas Decorations:** We will take down Christmas decorations on Monday, Jan. 2 at 10am.



**December 18, 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.

**Presbyterian Women:** We really enjoyed the Christmas luncheon last week, and we thank everyone who helped make the occasion so wonderful. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**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. Please pick up a blue bag with the shopping list attached. **Deadline: Tuesday, December 20.**



**Stephen Ministry:** Our Stephen Ministry offers these gifts of listening, encouraging, and restoring hope. Our one-on-one, confidential relationships through a difficult time are available to members and community members alike. Contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get started. Contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to utilize one of our skilled & trained Stephen Ministers.

**MVP Foundation:** Thank you for a successful "\$22K for 2022" matching campaign! Because of your benevolence, the MVP Foundation will be able to continue to generously support our 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:** Bob Addison, Mrs. JB, James Ballew, Neill Ferrill, Craig Mackie, Eliana, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Deborah Phillips, Elaine Rawlings, Wilma Schmidt, Rob Southard, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

**Memorial Service for Lou Baine** is planned for Sunday, January 8 at 1:00pm. The family is providing a light lunch after worship. All are welcome to stay for lunch. Not required but an **RSVP by Dec. 20** to the church office would be appreciated.

**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@mvpcchurch.org, call Yvonne (404.255.2211 ext. 216), or complete online @ mvpcchurch.org. As of December 15, we have received 74 pledge cards for \$421,275.

**Attendance:** 12/11 Worship 81  
Online 13

## Financial Update

December 8-14	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 9,004	\$ 472,931	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 1,100	\$ 44,720	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 30	\$ 7,496	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,134</b>	<b>\$ 525,147</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@mvpcchurch.org