



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2022 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Matthias Young

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*based on Luke 2:15*)

ONE: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

ALL: **“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”**

ONE: Let us come this Christmas morn!

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #56**

“The First Nowell”

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay. (*refrain*)

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood our life hath bought. (*refrain*)

Nowell, or Noel, comes from the Latin term for birthday. The repeating Nowell in the refrain has the character of spreading good news, inviting the congregation into the larger story of salvation, suffering, and resurrection.

† PRAYER OF CELEBRATION

Shari Freeman

Shepherding God, often we are like the people of the field: terrified. Yet as the angelic host, you lay your comforting hands upon us and declare, "Do not be afraid." On this Christmas day in which you have once again revealed your good news of great joy, we come before you to be awe-inspired. Move us beyond the presents and the punch bowls so that we might follow the path of the shepherds who, upon seeing the child in swaddling clothes, glorified and praised your name. Grant us the spirit of discipleship to follow that path so that like Mary, those whom we encounter are treasured by our words and lifted up by our actions. To God be the Glory and peace on earth to all God's children ... *(silent prayer)* ... Amen.

† REJOICE IN GOD'S ASSURANCE

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, let us celebrate.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #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!

† 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.)

If you are new to MVPC, in addition to sharing the peace of Christ, please also sign our friendship pads located in the pews so we can connect with you.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

HOMILY

Characters of Christmas: The Shepherds

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

Rev. Abernethy

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting ... Amen.

† HYMN #36

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

CRANHAM

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

Originally a poem by Christian Rossetti written under the title "A Christmas Carol," it was turned into music in 1906 by Gustav Holst. The second verse speaks of how heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain him, revealing the boundless possibility of the Christ child.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER INVITATION TO THE TABLE THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Abernethy
Shari Freeman

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.)

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Steve Ray

*If you would like to give your tithe to the church,
please place it in the offering plates in the Narthex as you leave.*

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #29 “Go, Tell it On the Mountain”
GO TELL IT

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

*After this song, if anyone has a request to sing a Christmas song that is within the hymnal,
please shout it out and we will keep singing!*

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

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....



WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG

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:



January 1, 2023

"Characters of Christmas: The Wise Men", Chalking of the Door, Matthew 2:1-12, Shari Freeman

January 8

"Terrific Texts: Identity", Matthew 3:13-17, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Christmas Eve Offering will be going to Family Promise of Fulton/DeKalb.

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

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.



Presbyterian Women: On January 10 the **Day Circle** and the **Sunday Circle** will meet together and study lesson 5, *Sabbath and Servitude*, in the Bible study guide, *Celebrating Sabbath*.

Church Office Will Be Closed Monday, December 26; Tuesday, December 27; Monday, January 2.



December 24/25, 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.



Stephen Ministry: Christmas, though so full of joy for many, can magnify sadness and discontent for others. If you or a friend find yourselves in despondency, please call Stephen Ministry so we can walk with you through a difficult time. 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, 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.

Congratulations on the birth of Graham Allan Malcolm on December 9, 2022 to Robyn & Geoff Malcom. Proud grandparents are Allan & Martha Baitcher. The rose on the communion table is in his honor.

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 December 15, we have received 74 pledge cards for \$421,275.

Attendance: 12/18 Worship 116
Online 31

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

Financial Update

December 15-22	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$16,830	\$ 489,761	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 44,720	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 317	\$ 7,813	\$ 10,000
Total	\$17,147	\$ 542,294	\$ 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