



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 8, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Prayer”

Donna Maini

arr. Mark Davis

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: And a voice said,

ALL: **“You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.”**

ONE: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

ALL: **Let us rise anew and worship God!**

† MORNING SONG #356

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of living waters, we come with a pitcher to remember our baptismal call, and we will come with a pen to share how the marking of Christ continues to inspire us this day. Through this tension of past and future, we are here in our present brokenness. We confess that truth not because we are hopeless, but because we are full of hope. Though we fall short, we know we are vital, and we long to witness how your grace will overflow in this time and place. Guide us with trust in you. Let us see your face in our fellow pew-dwellers ready to gather for another Sunday and another season of serving your son, the beloved, Jesus Christ ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

† RESPONSE #

“Down to the River to Pray”

Oh, sinners let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
Oh, sinners let's go down, down in the river to pray.

† 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.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:13-17

HOMILY

Terrific Texts: Identity

Today, we begin a new sermon series, *Terrific Texts*, exploring passages that some of you identified as your favorites in the Bible.

RESPONSE

VITAL CONGREGATION INITIATIVE SURVEY

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

David Barclift

OFFERTORY

“Baptized in Water”
BUNESSAN

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God’ praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
One with His rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God’s praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God’s children, joyfully now God’s praises we sing.

† 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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.

VCI is a 2-year covenant relationship between churches and the PC(USA) to prayerfully walk with pastors and congregations in intentional efforts at revitalization. This survey is meant to help us asses and allow us to wonder where Christly incarnation is taking place at MVPC.

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*) “**Shall We Gather at the River**”

HANSON PLACE

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (*refrain*)

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (*refrain*)

Soon we'll reach the shining river; soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. (*refrain*)

Written by Baptist Pastor Robert Lowry in 1864, the tune is a nod to the church in Brooklyn that he served, Hanson Place Baptist Church. It is meant as a celebration of the angel showing “the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Revelation 22:1)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“**Fanfare and Processional**”

arr. Robert Lau (b. 1943)

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.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 15 “*Terrific Texts: Peace*”, John 14:23–29, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

January 22 “*Terrific Texts: Joy*”, Psalm 100, Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Ordination & Installation of new church officers

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 Tuesday, 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*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, January 13, and review *Surviving Savannah* by Patti Callahan.

Memorial Service for Lou Baine is TODAY at 1:00pm. The family is providing a light lunch after worship. All are welcome to stay for lunch.

Taizé Returns on January 25 at 8:15pm. This is a service of song, silence, and scripture and is based on the monastic tradition of Taizé, France which started in 1940 during WWII as a way to heal divisions within the human family. We hope you will join us!

Inquirer’s Lunch on Sunday, February 12 is for all visitors and new members who want to know more about our church. A light lunch will be served immediately after worship. Please RSVP to the church office (404.255.2211).

Towson University Chorale will be performing in our Sanctuary on Thursday, January 26 at 5:30pm. The MV School has invited this group from Baltimore and consists of undergraduate music majors. All are invited for an evening of music.

January 8, 2023

