



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY
JANUARY 15, 2023 + 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“The Shepherd’s Lamb”
arr. Dan Forrest

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Jesus said, “Those who love me will keep my word.”

ALL: Let us come to Christ’s word and make our home.

ONE: What does the Word declare?

ALL: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”

ONE: Let us embrace the Word of peace as we come in, and let us spread it forth as we go!

ALL: Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG #487**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”
LAUDES DOMINI

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

A wonderful fanfare to begin worship, this hymn is an English translation of a German text. It magnifies the idea conveyed in the meaning of *Laudes Domini*, that Praise to the Lord should be central to our worship of God.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Holy Advocate, we come into your house seeking your truth, for your Son comes to bring that truth in love. Often, that truth is misconstrued or omitted completely in this world, yet you call us this day to spread that truth, so that this world may know peace. Breathe upon us this morning, for there are hearts that are troubled by the quiet chaos that stirs and the loud noise that shudders. Remove that which would harden hearts and let the soft power of your peace transform the heart that is within us, and the heart of the one standing next to us. Grant us the assurance of your truth and the sincerity of your love, so that peace may be the unending reality ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

† RESPONSE #316

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

TRENTHAM

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

John 14:23-29

HOMILY

Terrific Texts: Peace

In scripture, the words for Spirit and breath are synonymous. As you worship, or even as you go about your day, remember that with each breath you take, the Holy Spirit is present with you.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (8.22-8.24 of the Barmen Declaration)

“Fear God. Honor the emperor.” (I Peter 2:17)

Scripture tells us that, in the as yet unredeemed world in which the Church also exists, the State has by divine appointment the task of providing for justice and peace. [It fulfills this task] by means of the threat and exercise of force, according to the measure of human judgment and human ability. The church acknowledges the benefit of this divine appointment in gratitude and reverence before God. It calls to mind the Kingdom of God, God’s commandment, and righteousness, and thereby the responsibility both of rulers and of the ruled. It trusts and obeys the power of the Word by which God upholds all things.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the State, over and beyond its special commission, should and could become the single and totalitarian order of human life, thus fulfilling the church’s vocation as well.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church, over and beyond its special commission, should and could appropriate the characteristics, the tasks, and the dignity of the State, thus itself becoming an organ of the State.

The Barmen Declaration was written by German Protestants in May 1934 in response to Hitler’s Nazi movement gaining more and more power in church affairs. This particular passage speaks to the role of the church vs. the role of the state; something we are called to ponder by the presence of both state and church flags in our sanctuary.

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

“If Ye Love Me”

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever,
'en the spirit of truth.

† 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

Barbara Brooks

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #368 “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I’ve got joy like a fountain,
I’ve got joy like a fountain,
I’ve got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Arrival of the Queen of Sheba”
G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

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

January 29 “*Terrific Texts: Assurance*”, Isaiah 43:1-7, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW, JANUARY 16.

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



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!



Winter Dinner Mystery Theater Sunday, February 5 @ 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office at 404.255.2211. More details to come!

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 in the Fellowship Hall. 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. All are invited for an evening of music. See insert for more information!



Presbyterian Women: Save the date! The Presbyterian Women’s Mission lunch and program will be in the Kirk Center on February 12 after the worship service. Maritza Morelli will speak about the wonderful work that Los Niños Primero is doing in the Latino Community. Everyone is invited and lunch will be provided.

January 15, 2023

