



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY

JANUARY 22, 2023 + 10:30 AM

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

## GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

**“It Is Well With My Soul”**  
arr. Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

Jennifer Williams

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*adapted from the Constitutional Questions asked of all pastors and church officers*)

ONE: We are called.

**ALL: To trust Jesus Christ as head of the Church.**

ONE: We are called.

**ALL: To believe in God’s Word as the witness to the work of Jesus Christ.**

ONE: We are called.

**ALL: To follow Jesus Christ, love our neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world.**

ONE: How must we live out this call?

**ALL: With energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #525**

**“Here I Am, Lord”**  
HERE I AM, LORD

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.

All who swell in deepest sin My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Refrain:*

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My peoples pain.

I have wept for love of them, they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send? (*refrain*)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (*refrain*)

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*inspired by Psalm 100*)

Shari Freeman

God of the joyful noise, we gather in your presence and we ask, "How can we keep from singing?" Yet, too often, the world goes silent in the face of injustice or cruelty. Let us not be complicit in this silence. Let us lament:

(*after each petition we will sing the chorus from  
"How Can I Keep From Singing", found below*)

for God's creation ravaged by our exploits ... (*No storm can shake ...*)  
for God's children living in desperation ... (*No storm can shake ...*)  
for God's people struggling with addiction ... (*No storm can shake ...*)  
for God's beloved enduring pain and illness ... (*No storm can shake ...*)  
for God's followers who have lost hope, lost faith, and lost their voice ...  
(*No storm can shake ...*)

Let us lament for all these and more as we strive to offer your chorus to the world. Grant us the courage to ring aloud to you, the heavenly host, and may those lyrics draw us ever closer to heaven and earth ... (*silent confession*) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE (*see insert*) "How Can I Keep From Singing"

*Verse*

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

*Chorus*

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

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

Psalm 100

HOMILY

*Terrific Texts: Joy*

Written by Robert Lowry, the Baptist Minister who wrote "Shall We Gather at the River" that we sang two Sundays ago, this hymn acknowledges the sufferings of this world but invites us to proclaim the hope of Christ.

# RESPONSE

## ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Braegen Abernethy, Meg Christian, John Hibbard, David Hill, Htet Nyunt

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

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.

### LAYING ON OF HANDS

### PRAYERS FOR THE ORDAINED & INSTALLED CONCLUDING WITH 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.

Laying on of Hands is found throughout the Bible as a way to bless and heal, or to commission Joshua as Moses did in Numbers 27. We do this in response to Acts 13:1-3 to recall how the Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul to service and work for God's church.

### OFFERTORY

**"Where'er You Walk"**  
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

David Barclift, piano

### † DOXOLOGY #220

**"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"**  
OLD HUNDREDTH LM

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;  
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Today we begin a new offering in worship as we welcome those of you with musical gifts in the congregation to share them to God and your fellow Christians. Let us know what you would like to play/sing/offer...

### † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

David Hill

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL

**“The Summons”**  
KELVINGROVE  
(see insert)

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should you life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go where you love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”**  
John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

Jennifer Williams

Leading Today’s Worship Service  
**Rev. Barrett Abernethy**, Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt**, Associate Pastor  
**Matthias Young**, Director of Worship  
**Jennifer Williams**, Guest Accompanist  
**Shari Freeman**, Seminary Intern

We are located at:  
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Our mailing address is:  
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# MVPC Announcements....

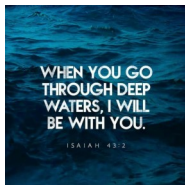


[WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG)

**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:



**January 29**

“*Terrific Texts: Assurance*”, Isaiah 43:1-7, Shari Freeman

**February 5**

“*Terrific Texts: Faith*”, James 2:14-18, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**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** Sunday, February 5 @ 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We want to know you're coming! Please use the Sign up Genius on the website [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

**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 **this 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. The **Book Circle** will meet Friday, February 10, and review *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.

**Men's Breakfast** next Sunday, January 29 at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

**January 22, 2023**

