



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY
JANUARY 29, 2023 + 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“His Eye is On the Sparrow”
arr. Mark Hayes

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: When we pass through the waters,

ALL: God is there with us.

ONE: When we suffer and feel hopeless,

ALL: God is there with us.

ONE: When we are joyful and satisfied,

ALL: God is there with us.

ONE: Whether we feel successful or defeated,

ALL: God is there with us, always. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG #341**

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!”
ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

Angels, descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (*refrain*)

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,

Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. (*refrain*)

This well-known hymn was written in 1873 by two women. The lyrics were written by Fanny Crosby, who authored over 8000 hymns and gospel songs. The music was written by Phoebe Knapp, who wrote over 500 hymn tunes.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Holy One, we know what it is like to be burned by the flames of our lives. We look for ourselves in all the wrong places - success, power, and recognition. We pour our time and energy into worldly ambitions, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have passed through deep and dark waters but live as if they have not changed us. Holy One, we need to hear your sure words, 'do not fear.' Our worries and failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue to claim us, gathering us up in your compassionate arms. Purify our hearts, strengthen our resolve, and bless us with your peace ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #361

**"How Firm a Foundation"
FOUNDATION**

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Nikki Player
James Wolters

*(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

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:1-7

HOMILY

Terrific Texts: Assurance

Assurance comes from faith in the promises of God and from the confirmation of the Holy Spirit testifying to our spirits that we are children of God.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of 1967 9.23*)

Shari Freeman

The new life in Christ does not release a man from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. He still has to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as he matures in love and faithfulness in his life with Christ, he lives in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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

“SING PRAISES UNTO THE LORD”

Henry Ruthven (1697-1765)

Sing praises unto the Lord O ye saints of God
and give thanks unto him for a remembrance of his holiness.
For God's wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye,
and in his pleasure is life.
Heaviness may endure for a night:
yet joy cometh in the morning.

† 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

MacKenzie Truitt

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”

Over the mountains and the sea
Your river runs with love for me
And I will open up my heart
And let the Healer set me free
I'm happy to be in the truth
And I will daily lift my hands
For I will always sing
Of when Your love came down yeah

I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever

"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever" was written and first recorded by the English contemporary Christian band Delirious. CCLI, the Christian music licensing organization, places the song among the 30 most-sung worship songs in the United States.

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“St. Patrick’s Breastplate”
Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

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:



February 5 “*Terrific Texts: Faith*”, James 2:14–18, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

February 12 “*Terrific Texts: Trust*”, Psalm 121 & Proverbs 3:1–12, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

VCI Survey: Last chance to fill out the survey! Meet Isaac in the Session Room immediately following worship to fill out the form.



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 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).

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. **Circle of Grace** in February TBD.



January 29, 2023



Make sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date!

Giving



Youth: We meet on Sundays from 5-6:30pm at Gailey Hall. We provide dinner, activity, and a lesson for the youth. We need volunteers to provide dinners. Please contact Isaac to signup.

Ministry Team Cards: are available to be picked up in the Narthex.

The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom: Winter issue is available in January in the Narthex and the Information Centers.

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: Rain, wind, and thunder disrupt the normalcy of our days. Likewise, loss, moves, divorce, and health issues wear at our core being. Without an anchor, it becomes difficult to stay afloat. Please seek out a Stephen Minister to help you keep your head above water, to listen without judgment, to give perspective and clarification, to encourage and help you to safer shores. Please contact a pastor or Stephen Leader, Pat Bartee, to get started in a one-on-one, confidential relationship.



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: Mrs. JB, James Ballew, Diane Bumgarner, David Cullen, Eliana, David Malloy, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Deborah Phillips, Wilma Schmidt, Rob Southard, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

Attendance: 1/22/23 Worship 72
 Online 21

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

Financial Update

January 1-25, 2023	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$77,809	\$ 77,809	\$421,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 4,685	\$ 4,685	\$40,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 318	\$ 318	\$ 8,000
Total	\$82,812	\$ 82,812	\$469,275

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to debbie@mvpchurch.org