



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 5, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Canon in D”

Donna Maini

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: When we gather to worship God, we do not recognize distinctions among us.

ALL: **No matter our identity, God made each one of us.**

ONE: Therefore, we must see God in those beside us in the pews and everyone outside this sanctuary.

ALL: **Our faith will lead us out to see, support, and serve all people.**

ONE: For faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

ALL: **For faith together, with works, leads us to new life. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #423**

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

DUKE STREET

Jesus shall reign where’er the sun does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where’er He reigns; the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Gracious God, we confess that we compare ourselves to others too much. We experience joy and heartache in our lives but then begin to measure it against the joys and heartaches of others. We receive the material gifts you give us and glance over at the material gifts of others. We judge our bodies and the bodies of others as if two could ever be alike. By your grace, shatter these separations we build between one another. Unite us in a common life through faith and works that lift each other up ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #421 "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

WAREHAM

The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led.
Must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

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

James 2:14-18

HOMILY

Terrific Texts: Faith

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (excerpt from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

As we confess our faith upon hearing the words of James 2:14-18, we must also discern what works, or actions shall embody the words we say. What actions will mirror your faith this week?

OFFERTORY

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Lead”

Donna Maini

Carlton T. Russell (b. 1938)

My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his name;
in pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay;
one word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes doth still my table spread;
my cup with blessings over flows, thy oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
oh, may thy house be mine abode and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

† 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

Cathy Jenkins

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER
INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Abernethy
Rev. Toney-Schmitt
Shari Freeman

Sacraments are often called “a visible sign of God’s invisible love.” They are actions that reveal the grace of God, and mark the world as God’s beloved. How can we share the spirit we find here at the communion table with those we love as well as those we don’t?

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 to remain seated, an elder will bring communion to you.)*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*) “Victory in Jesus”

I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me.
I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

Chorus:

O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood.
He loved me ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him.
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing pow'r revealing,
How He made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see.
And then I cried, “Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit”
And somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory. (*Chorus*)

I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory,
And I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing, and the old redemption story;
And some sweet day I'll sing up there the sone of victory. (*Chorus*)

The final song written by Eugene Monroe Bartlett, (he wrote over 800 hymns) this song was inspired as he struggled with complications of a stroke. It is an optimistic reminder of the eternal hope found in heaven.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“I Love You Lord/My Jesus I Love Thee”

Donna Maini

arr. William David Young

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.
Someone will be there to greet you.*

We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328
mvchurch.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 12 “*Terrific Texts: Trust*”, Psalm 121 & Proverbs 3:1-12
Rev. Barrett Abernethy

February 19 “*Terrific Texts: Clouds*”, Luke 9:28-36 & Hebrews 12:1-3
Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Annual Meeting: Stay after the service on Sunday, **February 26** for lunch and the meeting.



Winter Dinner Mystery TONIGHT, February 5 @ 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall!

Inquirer’s Lunch is next Sunday, **February 12** 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: 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** will meet February 19 at Shelly Ray’s home.



February 5, 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.

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



The February Communion Offering is for Clifton Sanctuary Ministry. They provide support for homeless men through life skills training, case management, community partnerships, and dedicated volunteers. For more information, please go to www.cliftonsanctuary.com. Grab a Blue Shopping for Outreach Bag in the Narthex after the service.

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: When your unhappiness becomes burdensome and unbearable, please remember we have a skilled, trained team of laypeople who want to help you and walk with you while you seek and find a life of peace and restored joy. Contact our Stephen Ministry leader, Pat Barteer or a pastor, 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 pbarteer@yahoo.com or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

Prayer Concerns: Mrs. JB, James Ballew, Diane Bumgarner, David Cullen, Eliana, David Geller, David Malloy, Frank Mayer, Karen Morine & family, Irene Nelson, Deborah Phillips, Carl Player, Wilma Schmidt, Rob Southard, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

Attendance: 1/29/23 Worship 102
Online 18

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

Financial Update

January 26-31	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 10,353	\$ 87,922	\$421,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 626	\$ 5,311	\$40,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 380	\$ 698	\$ 8,000
Total	\$ 11,359	\$ 93,931	\$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