



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY
FEBRUARY 12, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Donna Maini

arr. Kenneth Varner

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*a variation of Psalm 121*)

ONE: Look! Turn your eyes to heaven, toward the cross above and the stained glass around us.

ALL: Each is a sign of God’s guidance in our sanctuary.

ONE: God’s guidance is steady, alive in our daily struggles and celebrations.

ALL: God’s presence is awake with vigilance.

ONE: God’s protection covers us through the day and night.

ALL: God walks before us and behind us, below us and above us. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG #485**

“To God Be the Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (*refrain*)

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Gracious God, a few words have taken hold at the front of our minds: me and mine and ours. We have claimed and named lands as our own. We have hoarded money and possessions as our own. We have confidently proclaimed ideas and solutions as our own. When we let me, mine, and ours take the lead, we fail to see your hands at work around us. We confess that we would rather trust more in ourselves than trust wholly in you. Bless us, Gracious God, with a return to you. Mark out for us the signs of your forgiveness that we may bind them around our neck and write them on the tablets of our hearts ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“The Lord is My Light”

(Theme I)

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:

In God I trust, in God I trust. *(repeat)*

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

PSALTER READING

Psalm 121

ONE: I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?

ALL: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

ONE: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

ALL: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

ONE: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

ALL: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

ONE: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

ALL: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

SECOND READING

Proverbs 3:1-12

HOMILY

Terrific Texts: Trust

Psalter Readings are call and response as a way to evoke the song-like quality that are the original intent of the Psalms. Singing the Psalms has deep tradition in Presbyterian bodies going back to John Calvin.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Heidelberg Catechism*, 4.001)

Question 1: What is our only comfort in life and in death?

Answer: **That I am not my own, but belong --- body and soul, in life and in death --- to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

The Dutch Reformed Church, our 1st cousins in the faith, call the Heidelberg Catechism "the church's book of comfort." This question embodies the summary of the 52 question catechism.

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

"Where'er You Walk"

David Barclift

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

† 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

Malinda Holmes

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” SHOWALTER

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.
(refrain)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
(refrain)

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“God Will Take Care of You”
arr. Phillip Keveren

Donna Maini

The composer of this tune asked the lyricist to write a hymn based on Deuteronomy 33:27, which in the KJV is written “the eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” While the NRSV (Bible in our pews) reads, “He subdues the ancient gods, shatters the forces of old”. Quite a difference in translation!

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

February 26 “*Terrific Texts: Lukewarm*”, Revelation 3:14-22,
Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Annual Meeting: Stay after the service on Sunday, **February 26** for lunch and the Annual Meeting. Please sign up for lunch with the SignUp Genius on our website or call the church office (404.255.2211).

ANNUAL MEETING



Inquirer’s Lunch is **TODAY** 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.



Presbyterian Women: The Presbyterian Women’s Mission lunch and program will be in the Kirk Center **TODAY** 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.

Ash Wednesday: Join us for a Pancake Supper on Wednesday, **February 22** at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will then move to the Sanctuary for a Taizé inspired service at 6:30pm and imposition of the ashes.



February 12, 2023

