



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**  
**FEBRUARY 19, 2023 • 10:30 AM**

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

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”**  
arr. Dick Torrans

Donna Maini

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: The glory of God shines like a consuming fire.

ALL: **We have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

ONE: The voice of God thunders like a mighty storm.

ALL: **Out of the cloud, God speaks: This is my son.**

ONE: At the mountain of the Lord bow down, for the Lord our God is holy.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG**    **“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”**  
HYFRYDOL

We have come at Christ’s own bidding to this high and holy place,  
Where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God’s grace.  
Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,  
Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,  
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,  
Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet:  
Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,  
We, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,  
That our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

The tune Hyfrydol is most commonly associated with *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*. Here it is redone in a modern take that reflects the story of the Transfiguration that we celebrate this day.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of all glory, beauty, and grace, we have tried to hide from you. We have hidden our faces and hidden our sin. Yet you have never hidden your love for us. We have turned away from you, distracted by our own desires. Yet you continue to call us into your Kingdom. We have tried to search for you in temples, in clouds, and on mountaintops. Yet you have already revealed yourself to us in the face of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, and transform us so that our lives may shine with your glory, beauty, and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE #263

**“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

ST. DENIO

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

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

SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 12:1-3 & Luke 9:28-36

HOMILY

*Terrific Texts: Clouds*

## RESPONSE

The PCUSA Book of Order (w.1.0302) speaks to worshippers using language that is "expansive, diverse, and varied" as our theological traditions. The inclusive language text of this confession acknowledges the full breadth of God's creative work.

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Confession of 1967 inclusive language text 9.15*)  
**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

**OFFERTORY**

**"At The Name of Jesus"**

arr. James Kirby (b. 1949)

† **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**

Keith Bumgarner

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Rev. Abernethy

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Shari Freeman

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.)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Rev. Abernethy

*(During the final hymn, please follow Isaac and Shari out to the courtyard  
as we burn the palms. Bring your bulletin insert.)*

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL

### “Shine Jesus Shine” SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me; shine on me.

#### Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father’s glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness.  
Search me; try ; consume all my darkness. Shine on me; shine on me. (*refrain*)

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;  
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell you story.  
Shine on me; shine on me. (*refrain*)

During this hymn, you are invited to join us in the courtyard as we prepare for the season of Lent by burning the palms. We will take the palms from last year’s Palm Sunday service and turn them into ashes to be used this coming Wednesday.

### BURNING OF THE PALMS (*see insert*)

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

### “Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven” Don Wyrzten

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*

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](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:



**February 22** Ash Wednesday, Pancakes 5:30pm, Service 6:30pm

**February 26** "Terrible Texts: Lukewarm", Revelation 3:14-22, Rev. Barrett Abernethy (*wear blue in support of Presbyterian Disaster Relief*)

**March 5** "Terrible Texts: Trials", James 1:1-4, Shari Freeman



**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).



**Presbyterian Women:** We really enjoyed the presentation by Maritza Morelli, Director of Los Niños Primero. She updated us on the work that the program does for the Latino community and their plans for the future. In March the **Day Circle** and the **Sunday Circle** will meet together on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Beth Abernethy will teach lesson 6, *Sabbath & Hospitality*. The **Book Circle** will meet on March 10 and review *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. The **Circle of Grace** will meet TODAY 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.



**Small Groups** are forming for February 26 - April 2. Sign up in the Narthex for the small group that interests you!



**Family Promise** will be here the week of March 5 (move in March 4). Please use the link in the weekly Happenings, our website, or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044baea62ca6ff2-mount1#/>

**February 19, 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](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com). Grab a Blue Shopping for Outreach Bag in the Narthex after the service.



**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:** Sometimes, problems multiply and then the pile of them seems insurmountable. That is when Stephen Ministry becomes a perfect option for starting to tackle it all. A Stephen Minister, in confidentiality, listens and helps clarify goals, encourages as you begin to find solutions, adds perspective and resources, and is a constant companion on the journey. Contact a pastor or Pat Barte, Stephen Leader, to begin the process.



**Do you feel a need for prayer?** Have our Prayer Vine pray for you! Email your requests to [pbartee@yahoo.com](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

**Prayer Concerns:** Mrs. JB, James Ballew, David Cullen, Eliana, David Geller, David Malloy, Frank Mayer, Karen Morine, Neile Morrison, Laura Northrop, Deborah Phillips, Carl Player, Wilma Schmidt, and people of Ukraine, Turkey, and Zambia.

Services were held yesterday at the Sandy Springs Chapel for **Martha Chambliss**. If you would like to send a note of condolence to her sons, Carwin & Ed, please send to: 300 Johnson Ferry Rd. NE, B315, Sandy Springs, GA 3328

<b>Attendance:</b>	2/12/23	Worship	99
		Online	9

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

### Financial Update

February 9–15	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 3,535	\$ 102,757	\$421,275
Member Giving Non–Pledge	\$ 3,260	\$ 8,716	\$40,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 71	\$ 825	\$ 8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,866</b>	<b>\$112,298</b>	<b>\$469,275</b>

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