



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 + 10:30 AM

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

Why do we call this season "Lent?" Lent means "to lengthen" as in to look toward spring. These 40 weekdays were originally a time to prepare people for baptism and then became a time for the baptized to offer repentance to God - something we still to do today.

## GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

**"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"**

Donna Maini

arr. Kurt Kaiser

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God communicates with us every day,

**ALL: Through moments of revelation and ordinary living; through silence and conversation.**

ONE: In all, may we listen for what God is saying to the churches.

**ALL: In all, may we hear the startling call to a new way of living. Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG

**"Open the Eyes of My Heart"**

OPEN THE EYES

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you; I want to see you;

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you; I want to see you;

to see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy." I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you; I want to see you;

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you; I want to see you;

to see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy ...

**"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty**

NICAEA

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee, though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see, only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea; Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

We were inspired to combine these two songs because they both emphasize holiness. Holiness literally means "set apart," and part of the Lenten discipline is seeking through God a clean heart. (Psalm 51:17)

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Grace, you have created each one of us. You have shaped us into people who may go the extra step to serve you and help one another. We are often called to take that extra step, and we often choose to remain still. We become stuck in our decision-making, stalled in our awareness of you, and stagnant in ourselves. Forgive us by your grace, O God. Enliven our feet with new steps and prick our ears with new hearing. You are on the move, and we want to follow ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE #339

**“Be Thou My Vision”**

SLANE

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art -  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

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

Revelation 3:14-22

HOMILY

*Terrible Texts: Lukewarm*

We know the Book of Revelation was written by someone named John, but scholars believe it to be a different writer than the one who wrote the gospel of the same name. Most recently scholars believe all the books of the “Johannine Community” to be by different writers who drew inspiration from John the Apostle.

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from A Brief Statement of Faith 65-76*)

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!"

### 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

#### "From the Rising of the Sun"

Chancel Choir

Frederick A. Gore Ouseley (1825-1889)

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same,  
my name shall be great among the Gentiles,  
and in every place, incense shall be offered up unto my name:  
for my name shall be great among the heathen,  
thus saith the Lord.

### † 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

Jim Loth

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL “Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet” THY WORD

#### *Refrain*

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way,  
Still you're there right beside me.  
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end. (*refrain*)

I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side.  
I will love you to the end. (*refrain*)

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

“He Has Made Me Glad”  
arr. Carol Tornquist

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....



Don't forget to grab your nametag in the Narthex!

[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:



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

**March 12** "Terrible Texts: Dominion", Joshua 8:1-2, 10, 18-22, Shari Freeman



**Annual Meeting:** Stay after the service TODAY for lunch and the Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Please also stay to recognize and celebrate Matthias Young's tenure here at MVPC.



**Presbyterian Women:** 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.

**Small Groups** begin today and run 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). There are many vacant slots yet to be filled. Please use the link in the weekly Happenings, our website, or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044baea62ca6ff2-mount1#/>



**Senior Adults:** Our Spring Day Trip will be Saturday, March 25 to the Macon Cherry Blossom Festival! Be sure to sign up in the Narthex.

**February 26, 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:** Our Stephen Ministry is trained to assist with mild depression, early stage dementia, divorce, loss of job, spouse, child, sibling, parent or friend, grief, moving, change in housing or status, suicidal thoughts, death and dying, new diagnoses, chronic illness, mid-life angst and change, loneliness, and empty nests. All the difficulties of life that require hard thinking and somehow topple us emotionally are areas our Stephen Ministers understand a lot about and are wanting to help you through in a confidential relationship. Contact a pastor or interim (Feb./Mar) Stephen Leader, Mary McClurg, to get started.



**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:** Becky, Mrs. JB, Pat Bartee, Sam Brasher, Keith Bumgarner, David Cullen, Neill Ferrell, David Malloy, Frank Mayer, Karen Morine, Neile Morrison, Deborah Phillips, Carl Player, Wilma Schmidt, and people of Ukraine, Turkey, and Zambia.

<b>Attendance:</b>	2/19/23	Worship	92
		Online	29

**Giving envelopes have been ordered and will arrive in the next several weeks.**

### Financial Update

February 16-23	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 6,730	\$ 109,487	\$421,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 8,716	\$40,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 87	\$ 912	\$ 8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,817</b>	<b>\$ 119,115</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)