



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 12, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Prelude in F Major”
J. S. Bach

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: The season of Lent is a season of introspection.

ALL: That is why we come to the terrible texts that can be hard to hear.

ONE: Let us hear these words afresh, inclining our hearts and ears to the grace of Jesus Christ.

ALL: May these terrible texts move us to ask critical questions.

ONE: May these terrible texts inspire our faith in spite of what we initially hear.

ALL: For what is terrible is also teachable. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG #371**

“Lift High the Cross”
CRUCIFER

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (*refrain*)

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. (*refrain*)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. (*refrain*)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Abernethy

God of peace, today we hear you say to Joshua that his army should set an ambush and that he should stretch out his sword. We ask why? Why would you want us to instigate an act of violence toward another of your creations? For texts like this have unfortunately inspired the "God is on my side" mentality. This can lead us to believe that no matter how egregious our actions, God wants us to win. What we forget, and what the Lenten journey to the cross reminds us, is that God in Christ doesn't care about winning or losing.

(Sing verse 1 of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" found below.)

God in Christ cares about those who are ambushed and those facing the wrath of the sword. Inspire us to think anew. Inspire us to shatter our swords. Inspire us to abandon ideas of ambush. For even though it is Lent, we can always start to be Easter people ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE #101

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (v.1)

HAMBURG

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Prolific hymn writer Isaac Watts published this hymn in 1707. Our own Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt is named after the author!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Shari Freeman

(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

Joshua 8:1-2, 10, 18-22

HOMILY

Terrible Texts: Dominion

RESPONSE

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

God's reconciliation in Jesus Christ is the ground of the peace, justice, and freedom among nations which all powers of government are called to serve and defend. The church, in its own life, is called to practice the forgiveness of enemies and to commend to the nations as practical politics the search for cooperation and peace. This search requires that the nations pursue fresh and responsible relations across every line of conflict, even at risk to national security, to reduce areas of strife and to broaden international understanding. Reconciliation among nations becomes peculiarly urgent as countries develop nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, diverting their human power and resources from constructive uses and risking the annihilation of humankind. Although nations may serve God's purposes in history, the church which identifies the sovereignty of any one nation or any one way of life with the cause of God denies the Lordship of Christ and betrays its calling.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

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

"Brother James' Air"

Chancel Choir

arr. Gordon Jacob

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to
lie in pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me, the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for His own Name's sake.
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.
And in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.

† DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDRETH

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.

The "Old Hundredth" is one of the best-known melodies in Christian musical traditions. The tune is usually attributed to the French composer Louis Bourgeois (1510–1560).

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Kendra Boyer

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“I Surrender All” SURRENDER

(see insert)

All to Jesus I surrender; all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.

Refrain

I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at his feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me, Jesus, take me now. (*refrain*)

All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that thou are mine. (*refrain*)

All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee;
Fill me with thy love and power; let thy blessing fall on me. (*refrain*)

All to Jesus I surrender; now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to his name! (*refrain*)

This famous hymn was published in 1896. The words of the hymn express the values of the "victorious life" concept of the late 19th century, emphasizing total surrender to the Divine Will to triumph over the problems of daily existence.

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“Sighing, Weeping, Sorrow, Need”

Donna Maini

Leading Today's Worship Service

Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Donna Maini, Accompanist

*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

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:



March 19 “*Terrible Texts: Sacrifice*”, Genesis 22:1-18, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

March 26 “*Terrible Texts: Submission*”, 1 Timothy 2:8-15, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Senior Adults: Our Spring Day Trip will be **Saturday, March 25** to the Fried Green Tomatoes movie set, Whistle Stop Café, and then to the Macon Cherry Blossom Festival! Be sure to sign up in the Narthex.



Atlanta Concert Band: Heroes and Villains - a concert celebrating the best of heroes and villains with music from Hollywood, Broadway, the Olympics and more! TODAY March 12 @ 4pm at the Roswell Cultural Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased online at roswellcac.com



Men's Breakfast: Sunday, March 26, 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited!



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** and the **Sunday Circle** will meet together on Tuesday, March 14. Beth Abernethy will teach lesson 6, *Sabbath & Hospitality*. The **Book Circle** met on Friday and reviewed *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann.



Taizé: The next service is Wednesday, March 22 at 8:15pm in the Sanctuary. The worship of Taizé consists of much singing along with significant periods of silent meditation.

March 12, 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 March Communion Offering is for the Columbia Student Food Pantry. The CTS cafeteria has been closed since the pandemic, so a food pantry for on-campus students was opened to help students with groceries and other needs. Please 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: Fred Rogers knew the value of talking about our fears and confusion and shared it with the children who watched him daily. Adults feel so responsible for making our own decisions and repressing our trepidations that we forget the value of unburdening to someone trustworthy. If you share with a trustworthy and trained person, you increase the effectiveness of the assistance and relief you get. Please remember our own Stephen Ministry Team when you could use some temporary help through troubling times. 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 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, Carl Player, Wilma Schmidt, and people of Ukraine, Turkey, and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy to the family & friends of long-time member Fran Lewis, who died 3/1/23.

Christian Sympathy to Martha Baitcher & Andy Nelson on the death of their mother, Irene Nelson on 3/5/23.

Attendance: 3/5/23 Worship 72
Online 24

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

Financial Update

March 1-8	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 3,477	\$ 131,913	\$421,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 600	\$ 10,572	\$40,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 103	\$ 1,662	\$ 8,000
Total	\$ 4,180	\$ 144,147	\$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