



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FORTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Steal Away”
arr. H.T. Burleigh

Jennifer Williams

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: It is often said that the opposite of faith is not doubt, but fear.

ALL: **Abraham exudes a faith that is without doubt,**

ONE: Yet his faith stirs fear within us.

ALL: **Lead us, great God, to take our doubts seriously so they may nurture our faith.**

ONE: For whether we come full of certainty or full of doubt, we will confess your holy name.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG #293

“This is My Father’s World”
TERRA BEATA

This is my Father’s world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father’s world.
Oh, let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world:
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

Fans of the *Lord of the Rings* movies will recognize bits of this tune in “Concerning Hobbits,” the Shire tune. Intentional or not, both tunes point to the lush beauty of nature.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Yet we humbly but boldly ask, why does that require your worldly death? Through your preaching, your miracles, your acts of justice, and your love of neighbor, you supply us with the understanding of what it means to be righteous. So why were you sacrificed? We've heard it our whole lives - to save us from our sins, to die so that we might live, to show that you can overcome death. We get it, but why must it happen? Help us to grow in our understanding as we journey to the cross this Lent. May we see the importance of sacrifice as we witness Abraham's absurd faithfulness and your selfless sacrifice. In your holy name we offer our questions and eagerly await your answers ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

Your worship leaders wondered whether "absurd" was the right word...

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #354

"Guide My Feet"
GUIDE MY FEET

Guide my feet while I run this race, Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race, Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Lois Johnson

(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. Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 22:1-14

HOMILY

Terrible Texts: Sacrifice

Unlike the difficult texts from previous weeks, this text is in the lectionary rotation. Lectionary preachers will grapple with it this summer.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The earliest written records of this creed date to the 8th Century, though this is more like the date someone compiled multiple baptismal creeds from the 2nd Century.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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

"Be Thou My Vision"
arr. Gene Roberson

Jennifer Williams

† 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

Ed Taylor

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #302 “I Danced in the Morning”
SIMPLE GIFTS

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had My birth.

Refrain

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He,
And I'll lead you all,
wherever you may be and I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow Me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with Me and the dance went on. (*refrain*)

They cut Me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He. (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
arr. Jennifer Williams

Jennifer Williams

Leading Today's Worship Service
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Jennifer Williams, Guest 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....



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 26 "Terrible Texts: Submission", 1 Timothy 2:8-15, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
April 2 Palm Sunday, Luke 19:28-40, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Holy Week

April 3-5 Noon devotional, light lunch
April 6 Maundy Thursday Service & Agape Meal, 6:30pm (sign up on the website or in the Narthex)
April 7 Good Friday, noon devotional, light lunch



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.



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



Presbyterian Women: Circle of Grace will not meet in March but will continue on April 23.



The Sandy Springs Library is offering FREE tax preparation. Chris with AARP will be at the library on Tues & Thurs, 10am-2pm until April 18.



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.



Los Niños Primero: Saturday, March 25 is Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Visitor's Day! All are welcome to come from 9:30-10:30am to learn what they are doing in the Hispanic community with their Saturday School.

March 19, 2023

