



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 26, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

## GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Hymns of the Cross”

Donna Maini

arr. Phillip Keveren

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God, our scriptures proclaim that *in you there is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave nor free,*

**ALL:** *There is no longer male and female; for all of you are in Christ Jesus.*

ONE: And yet, in those same scriptures, we find instructions for women to submit to men.

**ALL:** **Which sort of community should we be?**

ONE: Guide us, God, through your scriptures.

**ALL:** **Let us worship God!**

The first scripture quoted here is Galatians 3:28, while the scripture about submission is from our focus text, 1 Timothy 2:8-15.

### † MORNING SONG (*see insert*)

“God of Many Faces”

Amy Cerniglia

God of many faces, we offer our praise,  
Singing your glory through all of our days.  
Hear ever growing voices, once fragile, now strong,  
Carrying melodies in expansive new songs.

God of many genders, our world reflects you,  
Sunrise and sunset uniting our hues,  
Woven into a city with jewels of all shades,  
Houses of ruby and walls rowed with jade.

God of many names, we invite you to show  
Us the new names that reflect our true souls.  
Breathe with your holy spirit to give us the Word  
That will indwell dry bones, granting new life once heard.

God of many bodies, abide within ours,  
Shifting more each day through time and through scars.  
Come sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you,  
Holier everyday, still becoming more true.

Sung to the tune of “Be Thou My Vision,” Presbyterian hymn writer Amy Cerniglia reminds us of the expansive vision of God’s love that invites us to see the boundless grace of God and challenges us to share that love to all our neighbors in affirmation.

## † PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Grace, you want us to pray, and we want to pray! You want us to pray for all parts of life, the social, communal, political, economic; all of it. And we want to pray! *(sing response from "What Wondrous Love is This")*

You want us to pray in every way we know how, through our thoughts and words and actions. And we want to pray! *(sing response)*

But who should pray first? Who should lead and who should follow? Who is the ONE and who is the ALL? God of Grace, forgive our questions. Fill us with so much prayer that our separations dwindle away ... *(sing response)* ... Amen.

## † ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## † RESPONSE #85

**"What Wondrous Love is This"**  
WONDROUS LOVE

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

## 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

1 Timothy 2:8-15

### HOMILY

*Terrible Texts: Submission*

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*A Brief Statement of Faith 11.3*)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. Amen.

Written in the 1990s, the Brief Statement is the newest confession (chronologically) in our Book of Confessions. A cursory look at the confessions reveals how over time Christians have shifted in their understanding of the role of women in the church.

### 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

#### "Were You There" WERE YOU THERE

Chancel Choir

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

### † 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

Julie Chesnutt

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL #343 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering. Reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,  
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
That surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

#### “Thine is the Glory”

G. F. Handel

Donna Maini

#### Leading Today’s Worship Service

**Rev. Barrett Abernethy**, Senior Pastor

**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt**, Associate Pastor

**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  
[mvpchurch.org](http://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:



**April 2** Palm Sunday, Luke 19:28-40, Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
Lunch & Egg Hunt after worship

**April 9** Easter, Luke 24:1-12, Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
Sunrise - 7:00am, Worship - 10:30am



### 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



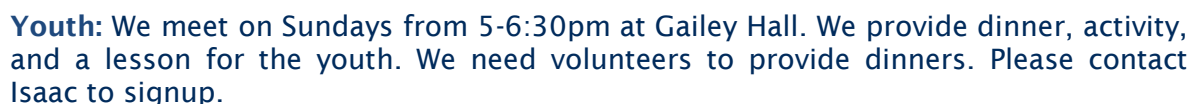
**Committees & Coffee:** TODAY after worship in the Fellowship Hall. This is a chance for the committees to come together to brainstorm and fellowship with each other. It's also a time for anyone interested in the various committees to find out what they are planning!



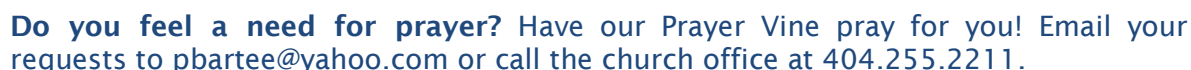
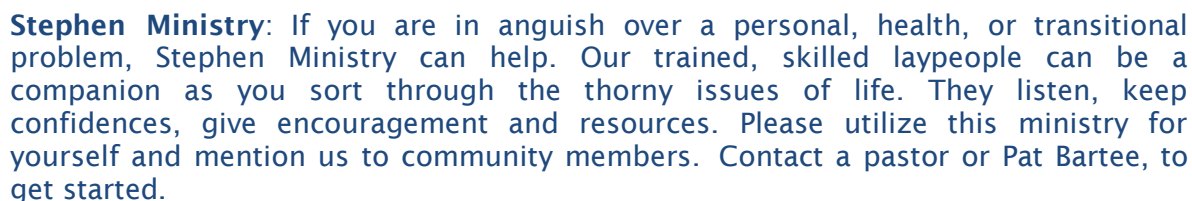
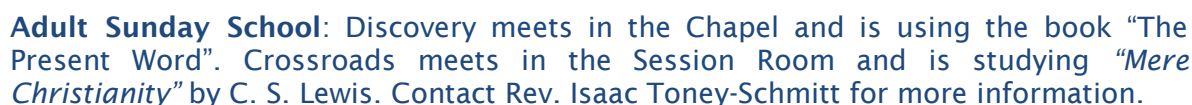
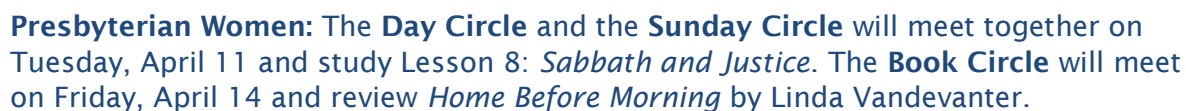
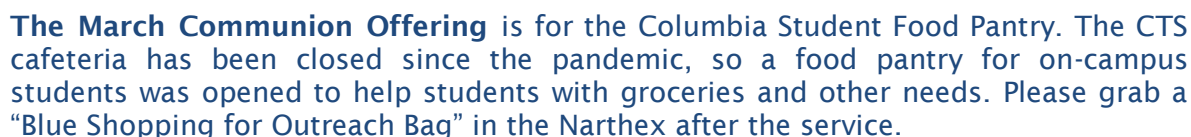
The Sandy Springs Library is offering FREE tax preparation. Chris with AARP will be at the library on Tues & Thurs, 10am-2pm until April 18.

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

**March 26, 2023**



**The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom:** Winter issue is available in the Narthex and the Information Centers.



**Prayer Concerns:** Becky, Mrs. JB, Sam Brasher, Keith Bumgarner, David Cullen, Neill Ferrell, Brandy Harvey, Frank Mayer, Karen Morine, Neile Morrison, Bev Northrop, Wilma Schmidt, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

<b>Attendance:</b>	3/19/23	Worship	87
		Online	21

## Financial Update

March 16-22	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 12,252	\$ 149,446	\$421,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 746	\$ 12,748	\$40,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 176	\$ 1,894	\$ 8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,174</b>	<b>\$ 164,088</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)