



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 5, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”
arr. Michele Murray

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Shari Freeman

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: God, we come before you today to ask:

ALL: Are you present at the time of trial?

ONE: Because we are told trials produce an enduring faith.

ALL: Show us you are present, for we often feel the pressure of the trials.

ONE: We ask that this service be a Sabbath, a respite from the trials that causes weariness.

ALL: Let us worship God with the energy of a Spirit present at trial, at Sabbath, and in all the broken places in need of wholeness and holiness!

† **MORNING SONG #420**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”
CWM RHONDDA

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces, pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of Grace, we live in a world that seemingly moves from one crisis to another. Whether it be pandemics, politics, Putin, or natural disasters, it seems often that life is perpetually isolating and that prices are constantly inflating. Today we are told these trials are to be a source of joy. That is hard to do. We can understand one or two trials, but must life be an endless trial? Where is the joy in that? Grant us wisdom, this day, Great God. Grant us courage for the facing of these hours. Give us the fortitude of faith to see you when it is hard to see what is beyond the trial right before us. For while life may give us more than we can handle, we profess to believe in a God who can handle it all. We confess and lift up this hopelessness as we seek the hope of Jesus Christ ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #403

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

CONVERSE

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

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

James 1:1-4

HOMILY

Terrible Texts: Trials

Peirasmos, the Greek word for trial used in James 1:2, is also translated in the Bible as temptation. It refers to the types of trials that test our faith.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Nicene Creed*)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed was the first and is in fact the only creed used ecumenically by the vast majority of Christians throughout the world.

OFFERTORY (*see insert*)

“In Remembrance of Me”

Chancel Choir

Buryl Red

† 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

Carol Beckman

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Shari Freeman

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. Toney -Schmitt

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #404

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

PRECIOUS LORD

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near;
When my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas Andrew Dorsey, the author of “Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” was born in 1899 in Villa Rica, Georgia. He was influential in the development of early blues and 20th-century gospel music.

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“Minuet Finale”
arr. E. Power Biggs

Donna Maini

Leading Today's Worship Service
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Donna Maini, Interim Music Director and 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 12 "Terrible Texts: Dominion", Joshua 8:1-2, 10, 18-22, Shari Freeman

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



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.



Presbyterian Women: In March the **Day Circle** and the **Sunday Circle** will meet together on the 14th. 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.



Family Promise will be here this week, March 5-12. There are a few vacant slots yet to be filled (at this printing). Please use the link in the weekly Happenings, our website, or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044baea62ca6ff2-mount1#/>



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

March 5, 2023

