

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"

Donna Maini

arr. Michele Murray

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.

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

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.

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 INVITATION TO THE TABLE THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt Shari Freeman

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.)

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 20thcentury gospel music.

+ BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

"Minuet Finale" arr. E. Power Biggs

Shari Freeman

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



Make sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date!





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: In 2019, our session decided our church should have a trained, skilled group of lay people to assist our ministers in meeting the emotional needs of members and community members during troubling events. In July of that year, we confirmed six Stephen Ministers after 55 hours of training. In 2023 Stephen Ministers are still ministering to congregants and community members who need a listener, an encourager, a clarifier, a resource, a perspective-giver, as they make decisions and changes, all in confidentiality. Remember to utilize this significant resource when you or a friend needs it. 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.

Attendance: 2/26/23 Worship 95

Online 19

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

Financial Update

February 24-28	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving Member Giving Non-Pledge Non Member Giving &	\$ 18,949 \$ 1,186	\$ 128,436 \$ 9,972	\$421,275 \$40,000
Loose Offering Total	\$ 565 \$ 20,700	\$ 1,559 \$ 139,967	\$ 8,000 \$469,275