



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 16, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Above All”

Donna Maini

arr. Lenny LeBlanc

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation.

ALL: We have come to stand on holy ground!

ONE: We have come to sing God’s praises as the azaleas and the camellias sing God’s praise with their blooming.

ALL: We have come to sing praises to our Creator!

ONE: We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit like the overflowing waters of the Chattahoochee.

ALL: We have come to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit! Let us experience the God of Creation in this sacred space!

† MORNING SONG

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

ROYAL OAK

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings:
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. *(refrain)*

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky, *(refrain)*

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. *(refrain)*

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. *(refrain)*

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Holy God, we confess that for many of us the history of how we came to be here is more complex than we understand. We confess that we have lost our connection to our local habitat - to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created. We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the dirt under our feet, the very substance into which you breathed life. Transform us, O God, and give us roots. Empower us to discover the history of this sacred place where you have called us. Embolden us to reconcile with all children of God who called this place home, and to honor their care for the land. Help us to learn the seasons of this sacred place - to learn the native flowers and trees, native birds and wildlife. Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia and the intentional care you have taken in crafting our habitat. May we be rooted and grounded in the family of God in our midst ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mike & Kathy Havey

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.

† 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

PSALTER READING (*see insert*)

Psalm 104

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 28:16

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

HOMILY

“Surely the Lord is in this Place?”

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*lines 27-40 of the Brief Statement of Faith*) Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

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 HYMN (*see insert*) “On Eagle’s Wings”

Donna Maini

† 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

John Hibbard

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*) “God of the Sparrow”
ROEDER

Donna Maini

God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars how does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast how does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave how does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal how does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook how does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart how do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

“Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place”
arr. Mark Hayes

Donna Maini

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



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!

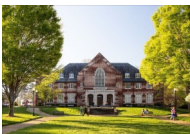
Visitors & Membership: Please go to our website: mvpchurch.org, contact our church office at 404.255.2211, or speak with one of our pastors after the service. If you are interested in joining MVP Church, please stop at the **Welcome Table in the Narthex** and pick up a visitor bag.

Upcoming Services/Events:



April 23 Youth Sunday, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, *"Spiritual Gifts"*

April 30 Mark 10:46-52, *"Blind Spots"*, Shari Freeman



Senior Adults: We have two events in April! The first is the Columbia Seminary Open House, Thursday, **April 20**. We will carpool and leave the church at 8:45am. There will be a \$15 lunch fee. Sign up in the Narthex. **DEADLINE: TODAY**



Senior Adults: The second event is on **April 30** after worship we will carpool to Tupelo Honey restaurant for lunch. Sign up in the Narthex.



Spring Cleaning: Are you doing Spring cleaning around your home? Bring your new or gently used items to our drive-thru event next Sunday, April 23 from 11:45am-2pm. This will benefit several of our Outreach partners.



Los Niños Primero Fun Day: Join us Saturday, April 22 to celebrate the joy of being a child at Día del Niño from 1-4pm here on the Mount Vernon campus!

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

April 16, 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: May-Aug. issue will be available in the Narthex and the Information Centers next month.



The April Communion Offering is for the Community Assistance Center. CAC provides basic needs and assistance for Dunwoody and Sandy Springs neighbors to prevent homelessness and hunger while promoting self-sufficiency and empowering them to thrive. Please grab a "Blue Shopping for Outreach Bag" in the Narthex after the service.



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** met on Tuesday, April 11. Pat Davis taught Lesson 8: *Sabbath and Justice*. The **Book Circle** met on Friday, April 14, and reviewed *Home Before Morning* by Linda Vandevanter. **Circle of Grace** will meet April 23 at Julie Chesnutt's home.



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: Crocuses are often the first to pop up in springtime, followed by daffodils, which last a bit longer. Azaleas arrive in a burst of color but fade quickly. Joy and peace of mind can be just as fleeting when you are full of troubling problems. A big move, loss of a job or a spouse, news of a new health issue can change your rosy outlook to one of sadness and gloom. Please utilize our Stephen Ministers to help you back on your feet. Contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.



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, James Ballew, Keith & Diane Bumgarner, David Cullen, Dave Malloy, Frank Mayer, Karen Morine, Neil Morrison, Andy Nelson, Bev Northrop, Wilma Schmidt, Jill Thompson, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Attendance:	4/9/23 Easter	Sunrise Worship	20
		Worship	265
		Online	25

We collected \$900 for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday. Thank you!

Financial Update

April 6-13	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 5,662	\$ 167,905	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 4,775	\$ 18,052	\$60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 455	\$ 2,495	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 10,892	\$ 188,452	\$540,275

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to debbie@mvpchurch.org