



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

## GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"The Palms"  
Jean Baptiste Faure

Donna Maini

RINGING OF THE BELLS

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN (*see insert*)

**"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"**  
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Awake to the day of triumph for our savior.

**ALL: Hosanna in the highest!**

ONE: Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross.

**ALL: Hosanna in the highest!**

ONE: Fill the air with welcome to the Lord.

**ALL: Hosanna in the highest!**

ONE: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**ALL: Hosanna in the highest! Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG #89 (*see insert*) **"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"**

ELLACOMBE

**Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
ALL: Through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang,  
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast,  
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**CHOIR: From Olivet they followed 'Mid an exultant crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;  
The Lord of earth and heaven ride on in lowly state,  
Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.**

**ALL: "Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song we sing,  
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King,  
O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice,  
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice.**

This prayer acknowledges the tension and movement of Holy Week. If we only exercise our faith today and next Sunday, we miss the entire movement to the cross. Central to our faith must be a journey to the cross so we can offer our petitions and ask for forgiveness.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Merciful God, we confess that we are not so different from those who welcomed Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday yet later shouted 'Crucify him!' or remained silent in the face of injustice. We confess that our wills are rebellious, our faith is often more show than substance, and our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive our sins, heal our brokenness, welcome our praises, and receive us as your own ... *(silent confession)*...Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Hosanna, Hosanna”  
HOSANNA! HOSANNA!

CHOIR: Jesus rode into Jerusalem.  
ALL: Hosanna! Hosanna!  
All the people sang their praise to him.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Came to town upon a donkey’s back;  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Seemed so lowly but he’s Lord in fact.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hear the people say  
Hosanna! Save us today.  
Hosanna! It’s a faithful song.  
Hosanna! Sing it all night long!

Enjoy the Hosanna’s! Luke’s version of the Palm Sunday scene is the only gospel to not use the word Hosanna. The word literally means “Save, now!” and in Christian circles is a title of reverence.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac 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

*(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:28-40

HOMILY

How?

You might be wondering, where are the palms? The Gospel of John is the sole text that mentions palms as Jesus enters Jerusalem.

## RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of 1967 Inclusive Language Text 9.08*)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all. Amen.

OFFERTORY      Variation of the Theme of "Judas Maccabeus"      John Hibbard, tuba  
G.F. Handel/Beethoven      Patricia Hibbard, piano

† 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      Mavis Boadi

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy, Rev. Toney-Schmitt, Shari Freeman

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE 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 usher will bring it to you.)*

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

## SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL      **"Lord I Lift Your Name on High"**  
LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH

Lord I lift Your name on high; Lord I love to sing Your praises.  
I'm so glad You're in my life; I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross my debt to pay;  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord I lift Your name on high.

Lord I lift Your name on high; Lord I love to sing Your praises.  
I'm so glad You're in my life; I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross my debt to pay;  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord I lift Your name on high

† BLESSING

Rev. Abernethy

† CHORAL BENEDICTION      **"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"**  
Peter Lutkin

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

**"Crown Him with Many Crowns"**  
arr. Cathy De Rouse

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  
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](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.

## Upcoming Services:



### Stay today for lunch & Easter Egg hunt!

- April 9** Easter, Luke 24:1-12, "Why?", Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
Sunrise - 7:00am, Worship - 10:30am
- April 16** Outdoor Service, Psalm 104, "Surely in the Place", Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



### 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

**Flower Cross:** You are invited to bring flowers to help decorate the floral cross for Easter next Sunday.



**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. On **April 30** after worship we will carpool to Tupelo Honey restaurant for lunch. Both signups are in the Narthex.



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!*

**April 2, 2023**

