



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER/YOUTH SUNDAY
APRIL 23, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Air in F”
G. F. Handel

Donna Maini

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Samantha Fifield

ONE: In love, God dwells with us from generation to generation.

ALL: God nurtures us, cares for us, and hopes for us to grow and transform.

ONE: God knows us before we are born and remembers us when we move on.

ALL: God journeys alongside us, wherever we may go.

ONE: In God, we are all members of a body of love.

ALL: In God, we are right where we belong. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG #398**

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”
SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You’re the one to profit when you say,
“I am going to walk with Jesus all the way.” (*refrain*)

This song was born when Doris Akers, in 1962, felt that her choir had not given themselves enough time to pray before service. She invited them to pray, and they prayed past the start of the service! She felt bad about stopping the prayer, but she told her choir, “We have to go. I hate to leave this room and I know you hate to leave, but you know we do have to go to the service. *But there is such a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place.*”

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Piper Neumann

Ever-Present God, you create us each uniquely in your image. We are all reflections of you in some way. Even so, we like to think that our reflection is better than our neighbor's. We like to think that our reflection does not need help from time to time. We forget that the same Spirit lives within us, transforming us all into reflections of you. Forgive us, O God, and remind us of the Spirit that connects us in this space and around the world ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

† RESPONSE #322

“Spirit of the Living God”
LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt & Youth

(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

Samantha Fifield

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

HOMILY

MVPC Youth Spiritual Gifts

Ben Barber
Kyle Cumming
Aidan Ray

Our youth are invited to respond to two questions: What has MVPC meant to them, and how has MVPC helped them discover their spiritual gifts?

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of 1967 inclusive language text, 9.37-9.38*)

The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church's fidelity. Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry and is responsible for the integrity of his or her witness in each particular situation.
Amen.

This excerpt from the Confession of 1967 translates the spiritual gifts from 1 Corinthians into everyday tasks of the Christian life.

ANTHEM

"Be Still My Soul"
arr. Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

"Wet Hands"
c418

Ben Barber, piano

† DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
OLD HUNDREDTH

Donna Maini

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

Jon Barber

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #315 “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”
PENTECOST

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine. (*refrain*)

Jordan river, chilly and cold,
It chills the body but not the soul.
There is but one train upon this track;
It runs to heaven and then right back. (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

MVPC Youth

POSTLUDE

“Chant O Filli et Filae”
Gordon Young

Donna Maini

Leading Today's Worship Service
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Donna Maini, Accompanist
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

MVPC Youth
Ben Barber
Kyle Cumming
Samantha Fifield
Piper Neumann
Aidan Ray

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

May 7 Matthew 28:16-20, "*Leaving a Legacy*", Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Fox Bros. BBQ luncheon following worship (veggie option provided)



Senior Adults: Next Sunday, **April 30** after worship we will carpool to Tupelo Honey restaurant for lunch. Signup in the Narthex. LAST DAY to sign up and pay \$25 is **TODAY**.



Spring Cleaning: Are you doing Spring cleaning around your home? There is still time to bring your new or gently used items to our drive-thru event TODAY from 11:45am-2pm at Gailey Hall. This will benefit several of our Outreach partners.

Taize: Please come and bring a friend this Wednesday at 8:15pm in the Sanctuary.



Vocal Recital: You are invited next Sunday, **April 30** at 3pm in our Sanctuary as Magdalena Wor, mezzo-soprano and Alejandra Sandoval, soprano will perform various pieces from Chausson, Chopin, and Gershwin, to name a few.

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

April 23, 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 MVPPC Members' Gift of Wisdom: May-Aug. issue will be available in the Narthex and the Information Centers in May.



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: Rains and storms, though sometimes annoying and inopportune, nourish the earth and bring new growth. When the storms of life are threatening to hide your true colors, please ask for help from our church's Stephen Ministry. A Stephen Minister listens, encourages, helps you gain clarification and perspective, and offers resources you may not know about. 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, Jerry Bahorich, David Barclift, 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: 4/16/23 Worship 97
 Online 14

Financial Update

April 14-19	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 23,165	\$ 191,070	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 4,430	\$ 22,482	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 104	\$ 2,599	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 27,699	\$ 216,151	\$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