



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 30, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“As the Deer”
arr. Mark Hayes

Donna Maini

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, was by the roadside.

ALL: **“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”**

ONE: Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out again,

ALL: **“Son of David, have mercy on me.”**

ONE: Jesus said, “Call him here.”

ALL: **So he sprang up and went to Jesus.**

ONE: Jesus asked, “What do you want?”

ALL: **“My teacher, let me see again.”**

ONE: “Go, your faith has made you well.”

ALL: **Let us see again this day! Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG

“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”

OPEN THE EYES

Emi Lutz, Guitarist

Ephesians
1:18 is the
basis for this
contemporary
worship song,
written in
2000 by Paul
Baloche.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you; I want to see you; to see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love as we sing “Holy, holy, holy.”

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Abernethy

Amazing Grace, you meet us at the Jerichos of the world, where historic walls have created barriers between the world that is and the world we imagine. Help us to tear down these walls. Remove those barriers from our eyes, those blind spots that allow walls to separate us from the love of Christ Jesus. Help us, so that when we are alongside the road we, too, will shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

(Sing Verse 1 of "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound")

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

My God, let us see again. Lead us to rise anew and to hear Christ say, "Go, your faith has made you well." Help us so that the historic walls may be no more and we may spring forth to the Easter promise of a world no longer confined by walls and blind spots. In your holy name, we once again sing...

(Sing Verse 1 of "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound")

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE (v. 5)

"Amazing Grace"

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we'd first begun.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Joey Noszek

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.

(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

Mark 10:46-52

HOMILY

"Blind Spots"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from section 5.114 of the Second Helvetic Confession*)

The same apostle [Paul] calls faith efficacious and active through love. It also quiets the conscience and opens a free access to God, so that we may draw near to God with confidence and may obtain from God what is useful and necessary. The same [faith] keeps us in the service we owe to God and our neighbor, strengthens our patience in adversity, fashions and makes a true confession, and in a word, brings forth good fruit of all kinds, and good works. Amen.

This section of the Second Helvetic Confession ties to Galatians 5:6, which states that, in Christ Jesus, the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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

"At the Name of Jesus"
R. Vaughan Williams

Chancel Choir

† 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

Pat Davis

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL#324 “Open my Eyes That I May See”
OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain:

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes (ears, heart), illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear. (*refrain*)

Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share. (*refrain*)

“Open My Eyes That I May See” was written in 1895 by Clara Scott, a composer, hymn writer, and publisher. This hymn has been included in 223 different hymnals.

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“Prelude in C”
J. S. Bach

Donna Maini

Leading Today's Worship Service
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Donna Maini, Accompanist
Emi Lutz, Guitarist

*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:



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

May 14 Outdoor, Senior Recognition Sunday, John 15:1-5, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



Coffee & Committees: We will meet following the luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!



Vocal Recital: You are invited to a vocal recital TODAY 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. Reception in the Narthex to follow.



Legacy Sunday: Join us next Sunday, May 7 as we celebrate Legacy Sunday with the PCUSA. The Sunday is meant to lift up the work of Saints past so through our gifts, wills, and bequests we can fund the MVP Foundation and sustain the ministry God has given us.

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

April 30, 2023

