



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER

APRIL 9, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Jesus Paid it All”

Brass Ensemble

John T. Grape/arr. Wayne Fritchie

“Nearer My God to Thee”

arr. Tim Doran

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The women from Galilee returned to the tomb with spices and ointments for Jesus’ body,

ALL: But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb and Jesus’ body missing.

ONE: Suddenly two people, covered in light, appeared to them.

ALL: They said, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He has risen!”

ONE: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, shout the news from the mountain tops!

ALL: Sing the Alleluias through the valleys!

ONE: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia! Let us worship God!

† MORNING SONG #123

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!

Now above the sky He’s king, Alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as God’s love; Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

The Trumpet Fanfare was written by the late MVPC organist, Dr. Dennis G. Stabler, for the inaugural playing of the Trompette en Chamade on Easter Sunday, 1994.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Wonderful Reversals, of Unexpected Life in the face of death, of Forgiveness and Mercy among broken relationships, we lay our whole selves before you. We hear rumors of your work among us. We hear bits and pieces of a new Kingdom. We hear rushed accounts of lives changed. And we must confess that we consider them idle tales. We must confess that, to us, they are unbelievable and have no bearing on our safe, ordered, and structured lives. So we miss you. Forgive us God and break through every bit of safety, order, and structure we've built. Your renewed presence is greater than all these combined ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

ONE: ...Christ is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed!

† RESPONSE

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Refrain

Alleluia, Alleluia

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Give praise to His name.

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior. *(refrain)*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. 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 24:1-12

HOMILY

Why?

For Holy Week, we have tried to look at the fundamental questions; each day we gathered and asked "Who, What, When, and Where". Today, on Easter, we ask "Why?"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

Rev. Abernethy

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.

† SONG OF RESPONSE#122

“Thine is the Glory”
JUDAS MACCABEUS

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.

Our church welcomes all people to come forward to partake of the sacrament of communion. As the Psalmist declares “O taste and see that the Lord is good.” (Psalm 34:8)

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 serve you in your pew.)*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“My Eternal King”
arr. Jane Marshall

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

Gloria Gillespie

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #104 "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

HYMN TO JOY

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
All creation is amazed. In the desert all-surrounding,
See, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding
Bring a taste of love unknown.
Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna, everyone!

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Hallelujah Chorus"

Chancel Choir
Brass Ensemble

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

Atlanta Concert Band
Brass Ensemble
Stephen Goodwin: Trumpet
Elaine Cekis: Trumpet
Sean Mack: Trombone
Paul Bonapfel: Trombone
John Hibbard: Tuba

*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....

Happy Easter!



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 16 Outdoor Service, Psalm 104, "Surely in the Place", Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

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



CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, April 10.



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.



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



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 9, 2023

