



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/OUTDOOR**  
**MAY 14, 2023 + 10:30 AM**

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

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“Rest on Us”**

Emi Lutz, Guitar

Maverick City Music

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Morning has broken!

ALL: **A morning when we celebrate motherhood and maturity!**

ONE: Let us witness the work of Christ amid creation.

ALL: **Let us rejoice in the journey taken and the one to come.**

ONE: In this present, may the Holy Spirit embody the branches that surround and breathe new life in us.

ALL: **Yes! Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #487**

**“When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

LAUDES DOMINI

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:  
May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:  
May Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss?  
My comfort still is this:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wild circle round in joyful notes resound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

## † PRAYER OF HOPE

Rev. Abernethy

Holy Vinegrower, through your creative imagination you envisioned all that is before us; the sun, clouds, trees, and seas. From this plenty came the fruit of life in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. On this day, we celebrate his life and how through him, we have seen life branch forth like a towering oak. Strong during the storms, comforting amid the heat, and a breath of fresh air when everything seems to close in. May your branches be with us this morning and all the mornings to come ...

This prayer is nearly a growing vine with its interwoven themes of growth, mothering, nourishment, and graduation. The music alongside the texts adds to the interconnectedness at the heart of this prayer.

(sing “Wherever I May Wander”)

Wherever I may wander, Wherever I may be,  
I’m certain of my Maker’s love; God’s care is over me.

We pray for these young men and women as they graduate and prepare for a new day. We celebrate the promise you have placed within them. Assure them of your presence when they are in need of those moments to reflect, discern, and wonder where and how they are called. We pray for mothers this day as well. In this village, we celebrate the many ways motherhood is expressed and shared. This calling reminds us of the great commission we live out in our common journey. We give thanks for the love that prunes our hollowness as well as the love that allows us to bloom ...

(sing “Wherever I May Wander”)

Wherever I may wander, Wherever I may be,  
I’m certain of my Maker’s love; God’s care is over me.

Holy Vinegrower, be with all your church this morning, continue to prune, water, and cultivate us so that this courtyard can be a witness to new branches that bear fruit and inspire hope. In your holy name we pray...

## † ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus, we have hope!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## † RESPONSE

“Wherever I May Wander”

NEW ENGLAND

Throughout the whole creation I see God’s loving care  
For everyone in every land, God’s children everywhere.

Wherever I may wander, Wherever I may be,  
I’m certain of my Maker’s love; God’s care is over me.

## SENIOR RECOGNITION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Jack Allen, The Mount Vernon School  
Ben Barber, The Marist School  
Kyle Cumming, The Mount Vernon School  
Marily Minton, Dunwoody High School  
Jack Nelson, Pope High School  
Aidan Ray, The Mount Vernon School  
Luke Van Putten, The Mount Vernon School  
Taylor Wade, Whitefield Academy

University of North Georgia  
University of North Carolina  
Appalachian State University  
Georgia Tech University  
Auburn University  
University of Georgia  
University of Georgia  
Georgia Tech University

† **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. Toney-Schmitt

**SCRIPTURE**

John 15:1-5

**HOMILY**

*“Abiding”*

**RESPONSE**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Apostles’ Creed*)

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

**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.**

**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**

**“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”**

Magdalena Wór, Soloist

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.  
Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,  
grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.  
Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,  
so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

These lyrics were inspired by writings of the 14th century Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich.

† **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**

Tara Allen, Julie Barber, Lisa Cumming, Shelly Ray

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL      “Here I Am, Lord” HERE I AM, LORD

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

#### *Refrain*

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send? (*refrain*)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send? (*refrain*)

This hymn emerges from Isaiah 6:8 and the listening heart of a Roman Catholic Jesuit, Daniel Schutte.

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE      “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” arr. Carol Tornquist

Donna Maini

#### Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Donna Maini, Accompanist

Magdalena Wór, Mezzo-Soprano

Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

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](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/Events:



**May 21** "Stay in the City", Luke 24:44-53, Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
Communion & Ascension of the Lord Sunday

**May 28** "Spiritual Language", Acts 2:1-21, Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
Pentecost Sunday, wear red!



**Men's Breakfast:** Next Sunday, May 21, 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited!

Sandy Springs  
**EDUCATION FORCE**  
Educate - Inspire - Prepare

**Senior Adults** will be book sorting again for the Sandy Springs Education Force in Gailey Hall, May 21, 5pm. Sign Up in the Narthex.



**Atlanta Braves:** We have secured 40 seats to the Braves game on Sunday, June 11 after worship. Please use the SignUp Genius on our website or the sign up sheet in the Narthex. The seats cost \$25 each. Please make checks payable to MVPC.



**Legacy Sunday:** We had a wonderful worship service and lunch last week. If you are still contemplating how you might leave a legacy, please reach out to MVP Foundation President, John Allen; or Finance Chair, Charlie Gray.



**Summer at MVPC:** We will have our Sunday worship services in the Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, June 4 so that the installation of the new HVAC system in the Sanctuary Building can begin. We anticipate holding worship in the Fellowship Hall for June & July.

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

May 14, 2023

