



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/ASCENSION SUNDAY
MAY 21, 2023 + 10:30 AM

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

Ascension of the Lord Sunday occurs 40 days after Easter Sunday, meaning it never falls on a Sunday. The church has celebrated this feast day since at least the 4th Century.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Reckless Love”

Emi Lutz

Cory Asbury

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

CHORAL INTROIT

“Lift Thine Eyes”

Chancel Choir

Mendelssohn

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Sing songs of praise, all you peoples!

ALL: **God has gone up with a shout of joy.**

ONE: The Lord Jesus Christ has risen to reign;

ALL: **His is the name above all names.**

ONE: We are witnesses; the Lord is risen!

ALL: **Christ has ascended to reign on high. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #142 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”**

CORONATION

All hail the power of Jesus’ Name! Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race, Ye ransomed from the fall,

Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!

Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,

To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all!

To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall!

We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!

We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. Our faith is sometimes weak, our love for others can be faint, our prayers are often timid, and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing. We have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give Jesus the glory. Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith and open wide our hearts and minds to the eternal presence of our Risen, Living, and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #150 (v. 2) "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!

BLESSING OF THE BIBLE

Rev. Abernethy

Eternal God, you enlighten all with your truth. As this Bible traverses an ocean may its wisdom be a source of light to all who open it. May its presence in a place that welcomes people from north, south, east, and west be a sign that the kingdom is ever close and that new life is ever near. We celebrate that through your Holy Spirit, language differences do not serve as a barrier, but rather an opportunity for your seed to grow into a rich harvest of justice, understanding, and love. Remind the pilgrim who's traveled far or near that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. From that trust that we find through your Son, Jesus Christ, we bless this Bible to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(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 Bible we will bless today is written in the Burmese language and will be taken to Iona, Scotland. Iona is a pilgrimage site for people all over the world, and church member Htet Nyunt, a native of Burma (Myanmar) noticed that Iona lacked a Bible in her native tongue.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:44-53

HOMILY

"Stay in the City"

RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Heidelberg Catechism (section 4.049)*) Rev. Abernethy

ONE: How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

ALL: First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of his Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ our head will also take us, his members, up to himself. Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge. By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

OFFERTORY

"Take My Life & Let it Be Consecrated"

arr. William Schoenfeld

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.

This is the final offertory of our full choir until the fall. Please extend your gratitude to them for ringing a joyful noise!

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

David Hill

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 elder will bring communion to you.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus "

Donna Maini

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Donna Maini, Accompanist

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

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

June 4 *"The Beatitudes"*, Matthew 5:1-12, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Worship in Fellowship Hall



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



Atlanta Braves: MVPC seats are in the Hank Aaron Terrace - out in Left Field. We are playing the Washington Nationals so it's a Divisional game. The cost is \$25, please make checks payable to MVPC. Ten carpools will be assigned a parking pass. Please sign the signup sheet in the Narthex as a driver (# of passengers per your car) or as a passenger. There is also the SignUp Genius on our website.



Legacy Sunday: 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 next 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, School Gym, or Gailey Hall for June & July.

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

May 21, 2023



Make sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date!

Giving



Youth: We are out for the summer!

The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom: May-Aug. issue is available in the Narthex and the Information Centers.



Our **May Communion Offering** is for the summer camp program of Stirred-Up Ministries, an enrichment program for at-risk youth in the East Lake area of Atlanta. In addition to the summer camp program, Stirred-Up Ministries offers year-round support to these youth and their families including after school tutoring and mentoring, family counseling and intervention, and a food pantry for emergency needs. Please grab a "Blue Shopping for Outreach Bag" in the Narthex after the service.

Presbyterian Women: We will not meet again until August - have a wonderful summer! **Circle of Grace** will meet June 4 at a restaurant TBD.



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: Sometimes our lives can become a chaotic mess of priorities, plans, goals, and everyday responsibilities. We miss living in the present because of things we drag along from the past. All kinds of baggage cloud our view of our daily path forward. Our Stephen Ministers are trained to listen to you and help you sort through and clarify your life so you can live a fuller, more abundant one. Call us if we can help. Contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader to get involved.



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, David Barclift, Barbara Bruce, David Cullen, Eliana, Dave Malloy, Frank Mayer, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Neil Morrison, Andy Nelson, Lindsey Nelson, Donna Neumann, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Attendance:	5/14/23	Outdoor Worship	97
		Online	11

Financial Update

May 11-17	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 6,617	\$ 222,705	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 3,363	\$ 28,616	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 86	\$ 2,928	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 10,066	\$ 254,249	\$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