



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DAY OF PENTECOST

MAY 28, 2023 + 10:30 AM

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

Pentecost literally means "fiftieth" which is why we celebrate it 50 days after Easter. On this day, the Holy Spirit came to the church. In the Hebrew Bible, the Jewish Festival of Weeks occurs 50 days after Passover.

## GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"Build My Life"  
Housefires

Emi Lutz

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

ALL: **Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.**

ONE: And there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;

ALL: **And there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.**

ONE: For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,

ALL: **And in the one Spirit we worship together. Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG #130

"Let Every Christian Pray"  
LAUDES DOMINI

Let every Christian pray, this day and every day,  
Come, Holy Spirit, come! Was not the church we love  
Commissioned from above? Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth  
To seek and save the lost: God never has withdrawn,  
Since that tremendous dawn, the gifts at Pentecost.

Only the Spirit's power can fit us for this hour:  
Come, Holy Spirit, come! Instruct, inspire, unite,  
And help us see Your light: Come, Holy Spirit come!

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Forgiveness, we praise you in the languages we know and hear you praised in languages we do not know. You are known and loved by people all over the world, people who do not know you in the same ways we know you. For as often as this brings us hope for your kindom around the world, it also frustrates us. Your expansiveness stretches our understanding of you. Your depth sparks second thoughts within us. Your unexpected Spirit causes us to wonder if we are seeing and hearing clearly. Transform our limitations into joy in your Spirit ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE #316

**“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”**

TRENTHAM

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

*(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

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-21

HOMILY

“*Spiritual Language*”

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.4*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Amen.

The Brief Statement of Faith was written after the Reunion of the Presbyterian Church. This Reunion between the main northern and southern branches of the Presbyterian faith in the U.S.A. happened in Atlanta on June 9, 1983, 40 years ago next month.

### OFFERTORY

“Holy Spirit, You Are Welcome Here” Gloria Gillespie, Soloist

### † 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

Mary McClurg

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER INVITATION TO THE TABLE THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Abernethy

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

On Pentecost we are reminded that Presbyterian theology claims that the Triune God is “spiritually present” in both the bread we eat and the cup we drink. Hence, we commune with Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #442 “The Church’s One Foundation”

AURELIA

The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the word.  
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Glorious Majesty”

Donna Maini

Lani Smith

Leading Today’s Worship Service

**Rev. Barrett Abernethy**, Senior Pastor

**Donna Maini**, Interim Music Director and Accompanist

**Emi Lutz**, Guitarist

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,  
go to the Visitor’s Table to pick up a visitor bag.*

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:



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

**June 11** "Light and Law", Matthew 5:13-20, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



**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.



**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 or School Gym for June & July.



**The annual Pentecost Offering**, one of four annual special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA), will be received this Sunday, May 28. Proceeds from the offering go to support programs locally and nationally that benefit children, at-risk youth, and the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer Program. Forty percent of the offering will go to Stirred Up Ministries, our local ministry partner, to help support their summer camp program for at-risk youth with the remaining funds going to the General Assembly to support programs at the national level. For more information, please go online to [specialofferings.pcusa.org](http://specialofferings.pcusa.org).



Church Office will be closed **Monday, May 29**.

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

May 28, 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.

**Ways to Connect:** Are you on our mailing list for the weekly *Happenings* email? How about the monthly newsletter *The Good News*? If not and you would like to receive them, send an email to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)



**Do you feel a need for prayer?** Have our Prayer Vine pray for you! Email your requests to [pbartee@yahoo.com](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

**Prayer Concerns:** Becky, Barbara Bruce, David Cullen, Eliana, Frank Mayer, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Neil Morrison, Andy Nelson, Lindsey Nelson, Donna Neumann, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

**Attendance:** 5/21/23    Worship    93  
  Online            9

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,066</b>	<b>\$ 254,249</b>	<b>\$540,275</b>

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)