



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/LEGACY SUNDAY
MAY 7, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Jesus Paid it All”
arr. Cathy DeRousse

Donna Maini

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

John Allen, President of MV Foundation

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Jesus’ last words are, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ALL: Today we are called to consider what it means to leave a legacy.

ONE: As Jesus tells us to go out and create disciples of all nations,

ALL: Let us ensure that such a commissioning extends beyond today and tomorrow as well.

ONE: For the Season of Easter asks us to look beyond ourselves and witness the eternity found in Christ.

ALL: May our legacy extend that hope. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG #485**

“To God Be the Glory”
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (*refrain*)

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Gracious and Benevolent God, Name above all Names, we come before you this morning as we consider our name. The world tells us that we should leave a legacy that lifts up our name above all else. How can we get our name on that sign, school, or even that sanctuary? Today, however, you remind us that your Name - your authority in heaven and on earth - is paramount. May the legacy of our name be rooted in building up a community devoted to discipling, baptizing, teaching, and serving those in our midst. Let us imagine how we can fulfill your Name, and how your Name can lead us to fashion our legacy - for as Christ declares, it is a legacy that will last to the end of the age ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

This hymn is inspired by the events of Easter Sunday 433, when a local Irish king issued a decree banning the lighting of a candle in observance of a pagan festival .St. Patrick refused, going up to Slane Hill to shine God's light.

† RESPONSE #339 (v. 2)

“Be Thou my Vision”

SLANE

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac 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

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

Matthew 28:16-20

HOMILY

Leaving a Legacy

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Confession of 1967, 9.24-9.25*)

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides humanity in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of humanity in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail. Amen.

Leaving a legacy is about God inspiring the communion of saints to bear witness to God's love in all that we do in this life and beyond. This affirmation with its claim that "God's purpose will finally prevail," is meant to remind us that legacy shopping is not for the benefit of ourselves but rather to glorify God and the work God continues to propel.

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"

Chancel Choir

Carl Mueller

† 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

Stan Williams

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 #429 “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” ABBOT’S LEIGH

This hymn
wonderfully
uses scripture
in each verse.

Lord, you give the great commission; “Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity;

Matthew 10:7-8

Refrain

With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: “In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community; (*refrain*)

Matthew 28:19

Lord, you make the common holy: “This my body, this my blood.”
Let us all, for earth’s true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us share your children’s liberty; (*refrain*)

Matthew 26:26-28

Lord, you show us love’s true measure: “Father, what they do, forgive.”
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society; (*refrain*)

Luke 23:34

Lord, you bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
And, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity; (*refrain*)

Matthew 28:20

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“All Praise to Jesus’ Hallowed Name”
J. S. Bach

Donna Maini

Leading Today’s Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Donna Maini, Interim Music Director and Accompanist

Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

*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

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 14 *Outdoor*, Senior Recognition Sunday/Mother's Day, John 15:1-5, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
- May 21 "Stay in the City", Luke 24:44-53, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Communion & Ascension of the Lord Sunday



Lunch Today: Fox Bros. BBQ luncheon following worship (veggie option provided)



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



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



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 7, 2023



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

Giving



Youth: Our last meeting before the summer will be May 14.

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

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: The **Day Circle** and the **Sunday Circle** will meet on Tuesday, May 9. Sarah Chalpan will teach lesson 9: *Sabbath and Community*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, May 12, and review *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Circle of Grace will not meet in May.



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: It is almost Mothers' Day! What an incredible balance mothers perform: nurturing, scolding, encouraging, organizing, prodding, patching up real and imagined wounds. As adults, when we must perform on our own, we long to be as confident and sure-footed as our mothers were. Sometimes, we still need help. If a job loss, a big move, grief, a good friend, or college kid leaving town, a new health diagnosis, the added responsibility of caring for a relative, or other personal turmoil seems larger than you can handle, please utilize our Stephen Ministers. Please contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get connected to this ministry.

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, David Cullen, Patricia Henry, Dave Malloy, Frank Mayer, Karen Morine, Neil Morrison, Andy Nelson, Jill Thompson, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy for the family of Mike Reeves. Mike died peacefully in his sleep last weekend. He is the brother-in-law of John Allen. His memorial service will be held at MVPC on Saturday, May 13 at 3pm.

Attendance: 4/30/23 Worship 92
 Online 19

Financial Update

April 27-30	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 3,164	\$ 211,528	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 660	\$ 24,828	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 55	\$ 2,712	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 3,879	\$ 239,068	\$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