



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**JUNE 11, 2023 • 10:30 AM**

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

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”**  
Stuart Townend

Donna Maini

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We are called to bring a new understanding of God’s love.

**ALL: We are to be the salt of the earth.**

ONE: We are called to bring a new hope in God.

**ALL: We are to be the light of the world.**

ONE: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

**ALL: The law of God says to love God and to love one another.**

ONE: Come, let us be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

As God calls us to worship, and as the liturgy moves, ask yourself how you are salt of the earth and light to the world. You are created from God and thus have gifts of salt and light to offer.

† **MORNING SONG**

**“Here I Am to Worship”**  
Hillsong Worship

Light of the world you stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore you  
Hope of a life spent with You

Refrain

Here I am to worship here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days oh, so highly exalted glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor (*refrain*)

I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross (*4x*)

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Merciful God, you have placed us in the world to be salt. But we have been afraid of what others might say if we abandon the world's priorities for yours, and we have failed to commit ourselves to your work. Your salt has lost its saltiness. Forgive us, Lord.

*(sing "The Lord is My Light")*

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:

In God I trust, in God I trust

Merciful God, you have placed us in the world to be a light. But we have been afraid of the ugliness of the world with its poverty, cruelty, and struggles. Your light has slowly faded away. Forgive us, Lord.

*(sing "The Lord is My Light" reprise)*

Merciful God, by your grace, cleanse us of our sin and help us to remember our baptism that comes from your Spirit so that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ into our world ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

**"This Little Light of Mine"**

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine (3x)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

**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

*(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)*

While we know it as a children's lullaby and possibly inspired by Matthew 5:14-16, much of this song's origins are shrouded in mystery. Civil Rights activists sang it as they faced their oppressors while the earliest recording of the song is sung by an inmate in a Huntsville, TX prison in 1934.

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

#### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

#### HOMILY

“*Light and Law*”

#### RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of Belhar - 10.5*)

Rev. Abernethy

**We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, and that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

**We believe that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, and that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. 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

“*Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring*”  
J.S. Bach

Amy Kiley, 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

Charlie Gray

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL “Arise, Your Light Is Come” FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captives' liberty, Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

**"Blest Be The Tie That Binds"**  
arr. Carol Tornquist

Donna Maini

**GO BRAVES!**

Leading Today's Worship Service  
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor  
Donna Maini, 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 and a little gift.*

Today, many of us will head to the Brave game following worship. We will sit in the Hank Aaron Terrace. Throughout his career, "Hammerin' Hank" was known to keep a copy of *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas Kempis in his locker. Take this quote with you from that book, "Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger or higher or wider, nothing is more pleasant, nothing fuller, and nothing better in heaven or on earth, for love is born of God and cannot rest except in God."

We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



[mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org)

Our mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 76051  
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

# MVPC Announcements....



**New Summer  
Office Hours:**  
**Mon - Fri  
8am - 1pm**

[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** and pick up a visitor bag.

## Upcoming Services/Events:



**June 18** "Jesus' Father's Day Sermon", Matthew 5:21-37, Shari Freeman

**June 25** "Love Your Enemies", Matthew 5:38-48, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



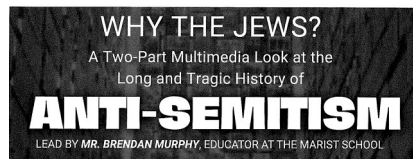
**Family Promise:** Please plan to join the Discovery Sunday School Class at 9:30am on June 25 in the Chapel as Andrea Brantley, Director of Family Promise North Fulton/DeKalb shares some interesting information about this vital program and how we as volunteers are and can continue to contribute. The SignUp Genius link is in the Happenings email and will be on the website this week.



**Senior Adults:** Join us for a trip to the High Museum's FREE "Second Sunday" on July 9, from 1-5pm, parking is \$20 at the Museum. There are other lots nearby. Carpool is also offered. Let us know if you intend to join us for dinner afterwards at Mary Mac's Tea Room.

**You're invited** to attend a 2-part lecture on Anti-Semitism at Temple Sinai at 5645 Dupree Dr. NW, Sandy Springs. Contact Barrett or Isaac if you would like more information.

**TODAY:** carpool with Isaac at 3:30pm for the 4-6pm presentation.



**Monday:** carpool with Barrett at 6:30pm for the 7-9pm presentation.

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

**June 11, 2023**

