

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Abernethy

God in Christ, too often we ignore your call to turn the other cheek. We listen to a world that tells us an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is the way to live. We know this is a false truth that leads to shattered bodies, broken hearts, separated families, and chasms within communities. Help us, O Christ:

(sing verse 1) "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with your Love"

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

God in Christ, too often we ignore your call to love our enemies. We listen to a world that tells us to love neighbors but hate enemies. We know this is a false truth. Grant us the wisdom and empathy to love the one we are told is our enemy. Grant us the compassion and grace to love the one who persecutes. Help us, O Christ:

(sing verse 3)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love.
All are neighbors to us and You.

... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

(sing verse 4)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
This is the way we should live like you.

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.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:38-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

HOMILY

“Love Your Enemies”

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of Belhar 10.3*)

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

We believe:

that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

“Nancy”

Emanuel Séjourné

Ryan Sawyer
Marimba

† 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

Penny Kiel

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL "We Are One in the Spirit" (They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (*refrain*)

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
We will work with each other; we will work side by side,
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (*refrain*)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

"Prelude and Fugue No. 7 in A Major"
Shostakovich

Ryan Sawyer

Leading Today's Worship Service
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Ryan Sawyer, Guest Musician

*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....



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

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** and pick up a visitor bag.

Upcoming Services/Events:



- July 2** “*Juntos Crecemos: Together We Grow*”, Matthew 13:31-32, Los Niños Primero Sunday
- July 9** “*A Spiritual Life*”, Matthew 6:1-18, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

July Worship will be in the school gym in the Activities Building across the patio. We will have signs on campus to the gym.



Family Promise: Andrea Brantley, Director of Family Promise North Fulton/DeKalb spoke this morning with the Discovery Sunday School Class at 9:30am and will also share during worship 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.



Please save the “Reserved” seats for the ones who need them.

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

June 25, 2023

