



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TRINITY SUNDAY

JUNE 4, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

As we move from the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall, it is a reminder that the church began in the homes of Christians. The Dura-Europos archeological site in present day Syria is the earliest example of this architecture, dating to 232 AD.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul”

Donna Maini

arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Wonderful is our God, who gathers the poor of the earth.

ALL: Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.

ONE: Wonderful is our God, who gives inheritance to the meek.

ALL: Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger for righteousness.

ONE: Wonderful is our God, who gives mercy to the merciful.

ALL: Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.

ONE: Wonderful is our God, who adopts the peacemakers.

ALL: Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted. Let us worship God!

† MORNING SONG

“Here in This Place”

Gather Us In

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now,
and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a
heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us
well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Gracious and Loving God, you teach us that in your Kingdom, “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” but we have been rich in pride. You encourage us to mourn, but we flee grief that leads to repentance. You call us to meekness, but we are rebellious by nature. You tell us to hunger and thirst for righteousness, yet we too often desire evil instead of goodness. You require mercy, but we are harsh and impatient. You cleanse us of our sin, but we still have impure hearts. You commission us to be peacemakers, but we have not sought reconciliation. You coax us to stand for justice, but our lives do not challenge the world. You urge us to carry out your work, but we have hardly made it known that we are yours. Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us all of our sins. Renew us and lead us by your Holy Spirit, so that we may seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness and walk joyfully in the way of your blessing ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE

“Sanctuary”
SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for 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

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 5:1-12

The word Beatitude derives from the Greek *Makarioi*, which means “blessed”.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

HOMILY

“The Beatitudes”

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Brief Statement of Faith - 11.2)*

We trust in Jesus Christ, **fully human, fully God**. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

Christians in the early church debated whether Christ was fully God and fully human. We believe that Christ was of the same substance as God (homoousias).

OFFERTORY

“The Holy City”
Stephen Adams

Nathan Abernethy, 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.

COMMISSIONING FOR SUMMER SERVICE

Rev. Abernethy

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sam McClurg

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

“The Summons”
KELVINGROVE

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should you life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never ethe same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

This hymn was written by John Bell in 1987 and was written for the Iona Community. Today, Bruce and Dale Morine are visiting the Iona Community in Scotland to place the Burmese language Bible we blessed in worship two weeks ago.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

**“My Jesus, I Love Thee/
I Love You, Lord”**
arr. Carol Tornquist

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:



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

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

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. We only have a few tickets left!

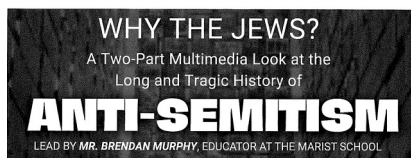


Family Promise: Please plan to join the Discovery Sunday School Class at 9:30am on June 25 in the Chapel as Andrea Brantley, Director of Family Promise North Fulton/DeKalb shares some interesting information about this vital program and how we as volunteers are and can continue to contribute. The SignUp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



Summer at MVPC: Welcome to our first Sunday worship service in the Fellowship Hall for the summer! The installation of the new HVAC system in the Sanctuary Building has begun.

You're invited to attend a lecture on Anti-Semitism at Temple Sinai, **Monday, June 12** from 7-9pm. Contact Barrett at barrett@mvpchurch.org if you would like more information. We will carpool from the church at 6:30pm.



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

June 4, 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 **June Communion Offering** is for the International Women's House, a shelter for victims of human trafficking, abused refugees, and immigrant women and their children. 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: Is your grief lasting longer than expected? Is your empty nesting preventing current joy? Are you expecting a job change by choice or not by your design? Are you moving or new and friendless? Are you at midlife and feeling adrift? Have you recently been diagnosed with a lifelong health issue you can't quite wrap your head around? Are you experiencing early signs of memory loss and need someone to walk through it with you? These are some of the issues Stephen Ministers are trained to handle. 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: James Ballew, Becky, Eliana, Barbara Hughes, Frank Mayer, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Neil Morrison, Andy Nelson, Donna Neumann, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Congratulations on the birth of Elaine Player on May 17. Excited parents are Richard & Nikki Player. The rose today on the altar table is in her honor.

Congratulations to our college graduates! Ryan Sawyer - Brown University, Charlie Plumly - Naval Academy at Annapolis

Attendance: 5/28/23 Worship 76
 Online 10

Financial Update

May 25-31	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 4,242	\$ 237,415	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 398	\$ 30,278	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 47	\$ 3,301	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 4,687	\$ 270,994	\$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