

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 16, 2023 + 10:30 AM

† For those who are able, please stand.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"Reckless Love" Cory Asbury Emi Lutz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: On the basketball court you need great peripheral vision to help your team.

ALL: Today Jesus tells us that in our spiritual life, "The eye is the lamp of the body."

ONE: Let us then through our worship develop great peripheral vision.

ALL: Yes, let us see the whole court of Christ's righteousness, so we can bear witness to such love and grace.

ONE: As Christ says, "If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light."

ALL: So pass this truth to your teammate, and let them witness this light as well! Let us worship God!

+ MORNING SONG

"Morning Has Broken"
BUNESSAN

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, praise every morning,

God's recreation of the new day!

During the silent confession, while you can focus on repentance, you might instead focus on centering yourself toward God. Thomas Keating, a Catholic Monk, founded centering prayer on 3 movements: 1. be still 2. let go of all thoughts 3. focus on one sacred word. Examples include: God, Christ, peace, forgiveness, hope. If not this morning, perhaps this practice would be

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Peace, your Son comes to us with the practical call to not worry about tomorrow, for today will bring its own troubles. Yet as we proclaim this confession without thinking, as we sit with our heads bowed but our minds astray, and as we continuously look down at our watches, our behavior reveals how difficult it is to stay present with you. Let us breathe... Let us for this moment not see this as a place for balls to bounce and cheers to echo, but let us see this space for what it is right now, a serene sanctuary of God ... (silent confession) ...

We give thanks for these holy moments. They are holy because they reveal how your Holy Spirit breaks forth in this world and reminds us that we do not need to hoard and store treasure on this earth. Let us serve your Son, Jesus Christ, alone. Give us the conviction to remove our worries. Grant us the strength to serve you. Lead us to change our ways. For when we do, we change not only as individuals, we change wholly by showing holiness to one another. Amen.

+ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

+ RESPONSE "I've Got Peace Like a River"

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. 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. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:19-34

(see insert)

HOMILY "A Worldly Life"

Children remind us of the beauty of imagination. As we continue to worship in this space, I invite you to imagine the sacredness of sanctuary. Remember, we are all children of God.

helpful during

the week.

RESPONSE

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)

Rev. Abernethy

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

"O Come to the Altar" Elevation Worship Emi Lutz

"opheilema" (debts) and "opheiletes"

The Greek word

(debtors) is used in Matthew 6 when Jesus

offers the Lord's Prayer. This is why we use this

language instead of "paratome" (trespasses).

Both words, however, express the need for

forgiveness of

sin.

† 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

Lois Johnson

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL "God, Whose Giving Knows no Ending" BEACH SPRING

God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store, Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure too You have entrusted, gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.

† BENEDICTION Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE "Holy Spirit, You Are Welcome Here" Emi Lutz
Elevation Worship

Leading Today's Worship Service
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Donna Maini, Accompanist
Emi Lutz, Guitarist

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



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

MVPC Announcements....





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:

Worship is in the school gym for the month of July!
Please save the "Reserved" seats for the ones who need them.



July 23 "Do Unto Others", Matthew 7:1-12, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

July 30 "Straight & Narrow", Matthew 7:13-23, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Family Promise is here through July 23! We have a few slots on the SignUp Genius still needing volunteers: laundry duties including sheets/towels on 7/16, organizing/cleaning on 7/23, and nightly dinners still needed. Please call Penny Kiel @ 615-477-0414 with questions or go to the church website to sign up and volunteer.



Taizé: Join us for our next Taizé service at the Sandy Springs Library outdoor labyrinth! The service will be at 8pm on Wednesday, July 26.



Men's Breakfast: All men are encouraged to attend the breakfast on Sunday, July 30 at 8:30 in Fellowship Hall.



Rev. Susan Haynes, our former Interim Pastor, invites members of our congregation to attend her installation as Called Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Blue Ridge, GA, on Sunday, July 23. The service will begin at 3:00 pm with a reception to follow. Susan sends her best wishes to our church and hopes to see Mount Vernon friends at her service.

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



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







VBS: Happy Summer! We loved having your children join us for VBS last summer and would like to invite you to attend again this year on Saturday, August 12 from 9:30am – 3pm! Our theme this year is "Pets Unleashed". Registration is open here https://www.myvbs.org/mvpc2023, If you have any questions, please contact meg.christian@comcast.net.

The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom: May-Aug. issue is available on the Welcome Table and the Information Centers.



Our **July Communion Offering** is for the Atlanta VA Domiciliary. The Domiciliary provides residential rehabilitative programming for Veterans facing homelessness, mental health and/or substance use disorders. They facilitate community reintegration by promoting autonomy and self-sufficiency through assessments, treatment, education, referrals and linkages that improve veterans' quality of life. Please grab a "Blue Shopping for Outreach Bag" after the service.



Presbyterian Women: We will not meet again until August - have a wonderful summer!

Adult Sunday School: Discovery meets in the Chapel and is using the curriculum "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: Our lives can get so cluttered by worry, fear, indecision, and change. Sometimes, it helps to have a companion to listen to what we are truly saying and feeling without judgment and in confidence. It helps to have someone hear us, then help us clarify our thinking and make goals for the future. Stephen Ministers are trained to do that. They also have access to strategies and resources that have helped others. If they could help you or a neighbor, please contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.



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, Eliana, Barbara Hughes, Megan Kendall, Kendra Kirz, Martha Krenson, Louise Lord, Chuck McCrory, Meredith Nash, Andy Nelson, James Phillips, Donna & David Rumrill, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Attendance: 7/9/23 Worship 69 Online 8

Financial Update

July 1-12	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving Member Giving Non-Pledge Non-Member Giving &	\$ 4,89 \$ 1,67		\$471,275 \$ 60,000
Loose Offering Total	\$ 11 \$ 6,69	. ,	\$ 9,000 \$540,275