



**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 helpful during the week.

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.

## † 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”

## 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

### † 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

The Greek word "opheilema" (debts) and "opheiletes" (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.

## 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"  
Elevation Worship

Emi Lutz

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



[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:

**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!*

**July 16, 2023**

