



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JULY 23 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“I Love to Tell the Story”**  
arr. Philip Keveren

Emi Lutz

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Our worship should not judge.

ALL: **We should welcome.**

ONE: Our worship should inspire holiness.

ALL: **We should ask, seek, and knock.**

ONE: Our worship should send us out with the Golden Rule.

ALL: **We should do unto others as they are called to do unto us. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG**

**“As a Fire Is Meant for Burning”**  
BEACH SPRING

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God’s name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God’s delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
So may we be signs of oneness ‘mid earth’s peoples, many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
May our lives reflect the radiance of God’s new and glorious dawn.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Abernethy

**Great God, we are called to ask of you. Yet too often either our pride or our shame prevents us from asking. So we neglect to acknowledge, or we neglect to repent. Remove our hardness or allow us the confidence to come before you, mindful that your Son tells us to ask and it shall be given:**

*(sing verse 2 of "Seek Ye First")*

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, allelulia!

**Great God, we are called to seek you. Yet too often we get distracted or apathetic and we never seek you out. We believe we can keep you in a box and return to you whenever it suits our interest. Remind us that as Christ hosts your table, that you also host us here on earth. Let us be eager and focused to seek and find you:**

*(sing verse 2 of "Seek Ye First" above)*

**Great God, we are called to knock at your door. Yet too often we are hesitant or intimidated. We think you have too many others to worry about or that our problems are minor in comparison. Remove that from our minds, for anyone who knocks will find that the door shall be opened to them. No matter is too minor, no confession is too small or large, for your love knows no bounds:**

*(sing verse 2 of "Seek Ye First" above)*

**Great God, lead us to ask, seek, and knock at your door. For you answer, find, and open all pathways that lead to peace and hope ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.**

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE

*(verse 1) "Seek Ye First"*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, allelulia

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. Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:1-12  
(see insert)

HOMILY

“Do Unto Others”

## RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*From A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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

“Eternal Life”  
Olive Duggan

Nathan Abernethy

† 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

Doug Sawyer

## SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

"O for a World"

Donna Maini

AZMON

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

"He Keeps Me Singing"

Donna Maini

Luther Bridges

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

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

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

**August 6** "Summer Lessons", Matthew 7:24-29, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



**Taizé:** Join us for our next Taizé service at 8pm **this Wednesday**, July 26 at the Sandy Springs Library outdoor labyrinth! Please bring your chair.



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



**Senior Adults** are having a Camaraderie lunch on August 6 at noon at La Madeleine on 1165 Perimeter Center W, Suite 330. The Signup is at the Seniors Table in the Gym hallway. Please indicate if you can drive or would prefer to carpool.

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

**July 23, 2023**



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

Giving



**Youth:** We are out for the summer!



**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](mailto: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:** Stephen Ministers are trained to confidentially and skillfully assist you and be present for you in times of difficulty. Please 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](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

**Prayer Concerns:** James Ballew, Eliana, Patricia Hibbard, Barbara Hughes, Megan Kendall, Kendra Kirz, Martha Krenson, Louise Lord, Frank Mayer, Chuck McCrory, Neil Morrison, Meredith Nash, Donna & David Rumrill, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

<b>Attendance:</b>	7/16/23	Worship	62
		Online	2

### Financial Update

July 13-19	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 8,556	\$ 285,185	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 2,342	\$ 39,344	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 122	\$ 4,330	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,020</b>	<b>\$ 328,859</b>	<b>\$540,275</b>

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)