



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

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

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“Open the Eyes of My Heart”**  
Elevation Worship

Emi Lutz

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Irene Schweiger  
Executive Director,  
Sandy Springs Education Force

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Piper Neumann

ONE: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

ALL: **Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.**

ONE: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

Sandy Springs Education Force partners with MVPC to ensure books get into the hands of children. As their website notes, “Sandy Springs is the 9th most affluent city in the U.S., yet 60% of public school students are economically disadvantaged.”

† **MORNING SONG**

**“Live Into Hope”**  
TRURO

This hymn was written for the 1976 national gathering of the United Presbyterian Women (the northern church’s version of PW). It was the first song lyrics penned by Jane Parker Huber. Seven of her hymns appear in our pew hymnals.

Live into hope of captives freed. Of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God’s own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see with insight and with clarity,  
Removing shades of pride and fear a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,  
The right to have one’s daily bread, to hear God’s word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Grace, we live into your hope and know that we need it. We look toward a vision of freedom and jubilee that can only happen if we partner with you! There are many paths to take to that final vision, some that scare and intimidate us. There are many fruits produced by that final vision, some that we cannot yet claim as our own. There are many ways to know you in that final vision, some that we have not yet explored. We cannot reach that final vision of freedom and jubilee without you, and we pray to be better partners with you. May we live into your hope ...  
*(silent confession) ... Amen.*

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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 7:13-23

*(see insert)*

HOMILY

“Straight & Narrow”

As we explore the tension between the straight and narrow and grace - which means unmerited love, can you think of a time when an authority figure told you to “keep straight and narrow?” Looking back, was that advice helpful?

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Nicene Creed*)

Rev. Abernethy

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

“Lord, I Need You”

Emi Lutz

Matt Maher

### † 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

Amy Kiley

## SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL      **“Better is One Day”**  
Matt Redman

How lovely is your dwelling place Oh, Lord Almighty  
For my soul longs and even faints for You for here my heart is satisfied  
Within Your presence I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere

One thing I ask and I would seek to see Your beauty  
To find You in the place Your glory dwells one thing I ask and I would seek  
To see Your beauty to find You in the place Your glory dwells

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God  
Your Spirit's water to my soul I've tasted and I've seen  
Come once again to me  
I will draw near to You  
I will draw near to You

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

**“Open the Eyes of My Heart”**      "  
arr. Mark Hayes

Donna Maini

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

Liturgists  
Amy Kiley  
Piper Neumann

*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 Fellowship Hall.**

Please save the "Reserved" seats for the ones who need them.



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

**August 13** "Nathanael/Bartholomew", John 1:43-51, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



**Senior Adults** are having a Camaraderie lunch **next Sunday, 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.



**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).

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

**July 30, 2023**

