



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 13, 2023 + 10:30 AM

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

Bartholomew, perhaps the surname of Nathanael, is symbolized by a book of scripture centered with a Celtic cross, a cross entwined with a circle representing eternal life. The book of scripture symbolizes his travels preaching and teaching. The knife reminds us of his martyrdom, as legend tells us he was flayed alive on one of his missionary journeys by heathens.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“ ”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: The grace of God is freely given, but it is not cheap.

ALL: **We have all been called and commissioned to costly service.**

ONE: Today, let us return to the lessons of the original twelve disciples.

ALL: **Let us take a seat with them to witness how their costly service can inspire our costly service.**

ONE: We first meet Nathanael, who asks, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

ALL: **The reply is “Come and see.” Yes, let us come and let us see! Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #434 “Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”**

KINGSFOLD

Today we all are called to be Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God’s grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peach but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us an redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be Disciples of the Lord.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of discipleship, before us is a unique communion table meant for your followers to sit, eat, and fellowship with one another. We come to this table often. We give thanks that your son, Jesus Christ, welcomes us. But we must confess that we look down at these cushions and we know very little about the first people he welcomed. This is true about so much of our faith. It might be before our very eyes but we neglect to be curious. Perhaps it is out of fear of being seen as ignorant, or perhaps it is apathy that has corroded our faith. Whatever it is, may you inspire our curiosity this season, and through the stories of people like Nathanael, Philip, Andrew, and the other nine, may our faith motivate actions of discipleship that promote justice, exude righteousness, and give hope to new life ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Jesus Loves Me!”

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

While local public schools have already started, The Mount Vernon School will start their 51st school year on the campus of MVPC this coming Tuesday.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT/BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS 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

John 1:43-51

HOMILY

“Seats of Discipleship: Nathanael”

Today we begin our “Seats of Discipleship” series. This service was inspired by the seat cushions that surround the communion table. This work was a two year project by the Presbyterian Women and the cushion colors are inspired by the dominate hues of the stained glass windows.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Question 32 of the Heidelberg Catechism*)

Rev. Abernethy

But why are you called a Christian?

Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.

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

“ ”

† 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

Dee Bradford-Smith

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I’M GONNA LIVE

I’m gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE "

"

Donna Maini

Leading Today’s Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Donna Maini, Accompanist

*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

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