



Needlepoint By:
Polly Sandidge, Rae Moran

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 20, 2023 + 10:30 AM

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

Philip is one of the first of many to whom Jesus addressed the words, "Follow me." The cross on his shield reminds us that all Christians are under the sign of the cross and should follow Christ's command to "take up your cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). The twin loaves of bread are associated with Philip's presence at the feeding of the five thousand.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"Air in F"
J. S. Bach

Donna Maini

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Today we join the large crowds who followed Jesus across the sea and up mountains,

ALL: **As Jesus healed the sick and prepared his disciples for the coming Passover.**

ONE: Among the crowd we meet Philip, a follower of Jesus present at miraculous feedings,

ALL: **And a wonderer about who God and Jesus really are.**

ONE: To Philip, Jesus declared, "Believe me, that I am the Father and the Father is in me!"

ALL: **Philip's witness to God can inform our witness to God. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #343 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**
BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

This song's lyrics were written in 1981, but the tune comes from and is named for the 19th century abolitionist pastor Henry Ward Beecher. He served Congregationalist churches and Second Presbyterian in Indianapolis. His more famous sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe, wrote the anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Grace and Unexpected Abundance, we don't always believe that there will be enough; enough food, enough people, enough space. We prefer to be realistic about what we know we have and what we know we can offer to others. God of Unexpected Abundance, we confess that this can blind us to You, for You are among us in the faces of those seeking friendship, healing, and divine presence in their lives. On the limits of the resources we have and the resources we can give, invite us to look toward your unexpected abundance. Invite us to share until all are welcomed and fed ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #420, (v.4) "God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

Set our feet on lofty places; Gird our lives that
they may be Armored with all Christ like graces,
Pledged to set all captives free. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

Set 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.)

As you hear/
reflect on this
homily (and
perhaps with
all the
disciples we
study), We
invite you to
ponder:
1. How are
you and Philip
alike/not
alike?
2. How can
his/their story
of discipleship
impact our
own call to
serve?

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

John 1:43-46, 6:1-7, 14:6-14

HOMILY

"Seats of Discipleship: Philip"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 1*)

Rev. Abernethy

What is the chief end of humanity?

Humanity's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

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

"Before the Throne of God Above"

Charitie Lees Bancroft

Nichol Jacobs, Soloist

Philip Jacobs, Guitarist

† 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

David Hill

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL "You Are My All in All"
Dennis Jernigan

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all
seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all.

Refrain

Jesus, Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name (x2)

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame
Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Andantirio"
arr. Charles Callahan

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

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:

Fall Sermon Series: Seats of Discipleship



August 27 "Andrew", John 1:35-42, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
(This picture of the Communion table cushion was embroidered by Doris Bobbit, Nancy Morris, Polly Sandidge)

September 3 "Simon Peter", Matthew 16:13-20, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Congregational Meeting: Sunday, September 24 after worship to elect new elders.



Small Groups: Signups for our 6-week small groups will be in the Narthex on August 27. The small groups will begin September 17.



Presbyterian Women: We will have a Kickoff Salad Luncheon after the service on **Sunday, August 27**. All women of the church are invited. Bring a salad and join us in the Kirk Center.



Family Promise: We are very thankful to Penny Kiel for her years of dedication and leadership with the Family Progress program here at MVPC. We are now seeking 2-3 volunteers to share the coordinator role. Please contact Beppie Lever (beppielever@earthlink.net) or Braegan Abernethy (bcabernethy@gmail.com) if you are interested or have questions.

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

August 20, 2023



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

Giving



Church/School Safety Procedures: With the beginning of a new school year comes a new safety protocol. Anyone who comes to the campus during office hours will need to stop at the church office to pick up a visitor lanyard/badge. If you are staying in the church building, you will not need a badge. But if you go downstairs to the Kirk Center, Gailey Hall, or Fellowship Hall during business hours, you will need a badge. We will also have a sign-in/out sheet too.

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



Our **August Communion Offering** is new school supplies for Sandy Springs Education Force and Stirred Up Ministries. SSEF creates targeted programs that educate, inspire and prepare public school students in Sandy Springs for a competitive world. Stirred Up Ministries is an enrichment program for at-risk youth in the East Lake area of Atlanta. Please grab a "Blue Shopping for Outreach Bag" after the service.



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 "The Language of God" by Francis Collins. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministers are here at our church to provide that safe, confidential haven for you to grieve, to be angry, to learn new and better ways to cope with chronic disease, to find happiness and contentment in new places, to talk about a difficult situation and be encouraged to overcome it with different tools. Please contact a pastor or Pat Barte, 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, Anne Barte (Artemis), Eliana, Ron & Marcia Hutchinson, Megan Kendall, Kendra Kirz, Louise Lord, Chuck McCrory, Meredith Nash, Andy Nelson, Bev Northrop, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Attendance: 8/13/23 Worship 94

Financial Update

August 10-17	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 5,634	\$ 324,993	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 6,898	\$ 51,128	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 191	\$ 4,775	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 12,723	\$ 380,896	\$540,275

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