



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 1, 2023 + 10:30 AM
Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

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

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GATHERING MUSIC

“Goodness of God”

Bethel Music

Emi Lutz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Come, let us sing to the Lord!

ALL: **Come and sing a new song.**

ONE: The Lord has made salvation known.

ALL: **Shout for joy all the earth!**

ONE: Make music with instruments and singing.

ALL: **The ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG** (*see insert*)

“For Everyone Born”

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair, (*refrain*)

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong, (*refrain*)

For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live, (*refrain*)

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, (*refrain*)

This hymn affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society. It makes clear that we are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice, joy, compassion, and peace.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God, we believe you have called us to unity, but often we have isolated ourselves from others. Forgive us for the times we have turned our backs on those who are different.

God, we believe you have called us to live together as one body. Forgive us for the times we have created division within your worldwide church.

God, we believe you ask us to look, listen, and learn from others. Forgive us for the times we have ridiculed and attacked those with different viewpoints.

God, we believe you ask us to accept and seek to understand all who are called by your name. Forgive us for the times we have offended you by failing to love others as we do ourselves.

God, we believe you call us to be one just as you are one. Forgive us for the disunity we have harbored and make us one ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #559 (v. 1)

“We Gather Together”

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Children's Handbell Choir

(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

Psalm 98:1-6 & Galatians 3:26-29

HOMILY

“Flags”

Often known as a hymn sung around Thanksgiving, the origin of this hymn celebrates the end of Spanish control over the Netherlands.

RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Confession of Belhar 10.3*)

Rev. Abernethy

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; and that are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

OFFERTORY

"Bread of Heaven"

David Ashley White

The Chancel Choir

† **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

Htet Nyunt

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Shari Freeman

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN #513

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion.
If you prefer to remain seated, an elder will bring communion to you.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #338 “Kum ba Yah”

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! (3x)
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah! (3x)
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone’s singing, Lord, kum ba yah! (3x)
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone’s praying, Lord, kum ba yah!(3x)
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba Yah, or “Come by Here” likely originated with the Gullah people who lived on the coast of Georgia and South Carolina. Their heritage goes back to enslaved Central Africans. It was first recorded in 1926 and became a popular campfire song in the 1950’s & 1960s

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Lord, I Need You”
Emi Lutz

Matt Maher

Leading Today’s Worship Service
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Donna Maini, Accompanist
Roger Scanlan, Choral Conductor
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern
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

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

MVPC Announcements....



2024 MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ESTIMATE OF GIVING

Reaching Out To ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

Name(s): _____

My total gift for 2024 will be \$ _____

I plan to give:

1 time Weekly Monthly Quarterly

Yes, please send me a Contribution Book.

Using the enclosed envelope, please bring your pledge card on Stewardship Sunday, October 22; mail your pledge card to: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358; or send an email to yvonne@mvpchurch.org.

Stewardship Sunday October 22

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

- October 8 *"Thomas"*, John 20:24-29, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
- October 15 *"James the Less"*, Mark 6:6b-13, Shari Freeman



LOST & FOUND: Please take a look in the hallway between the Sanctuary and church offices to see if you can find anything you may be missing. After **TODAY**, all will be donated.



Beginning Oct. 1, the doors to the Narthex/Lobby will be the only doors unlocked on Sunday mornings. All other doors will be locked.



Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, Oct. 8 from 2-4pm outside Gailey Hall. Bring your pets to receive a blessing. Also, bring socks for SOCKtober month!



Memorial Service: Beverly Northrop, Saturday, October 7 at 2pm. Reception to follow in the Kirk Center.

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

October 1, 2023



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

Giving



The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is accepting donations to fund emergency grants to meet urgent needs in the communities affected by the devastating wildfires in Maui. You can donate at www.pcusa.org/hawaiifires or by writing a check to MVPC or donating at mvpchurch.org/give and designating it for PDA Maui.



The October Communion Offering is for treats to benefit area schools' fall festival activities. If you would like to help hand out these treats as well as books from the Sandy Springs Education Force Mini Libraries Program, please come to Dunwoody Springs Elementary School in the evening on Thursday, October 26 or Lake Forest Elementary School on Friday, October 27.



Presbyterian Women: All women are welcome to join any of these PW activities. The **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, October 10, at 10:00am in the Chapel. We will be studying, *Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter*, in the Horizons Bible Study: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. Study guides will be available for purchase. The **Book Circle** will meet Friday, Oct. 13 at 10:00am in the Session Room. The **Circle of Grace** will meet Nov. 12 at Shelly Ray's home to prepare College Care Packages.



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 Ministry offers that quiet, confidential setting and non-judgmental acceptance that allows for clarity and solutions. Stephen Ministers are trained to help by listening keenly, asking questions, offering encouragement, and pointing out options and resources. Stephen Ministers help with mild depression, empty nest, job change or loss, moving and resettling, grief, loneliness, mid-life decisions, new health diagnosis, chronic poor health, and death and dying. We see congregants and community, aged 18 and above. If we can help you at a low point in your life, please contact us through a pastor or by calling Pat Bartee, 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: Dede Callahan, Mark Fifield, Fay Hendricks, Megan Kendall, Mary Lynch, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Meredith Nash, Andy Nelson, Carter Ramsey, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Attendance: 9/24/23 Worship 102
 Online 2

Financial Update

September 22-27	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 3,885	\$ 362,414	\$ 471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 332	\$ 63,020	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 109	\$ 5,417	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 4,326	\$ 430,851	\$ 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