

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 • 10:30 AM **Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.**

+ For those who are able, please stand.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"Blessed Be Your Name" Matt Redman Emi Lutz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OPENING PRAYER

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Irene Wong Executive Director, AMIS Executive Director, AMIS a longstanding mission partner of MVPC, committed to welcoming international students who come to study in Atlanta,

The first Sunday service took place on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1954, and the church was formally organized on May 2, 1954.

- ONE: There are more than twelve disciples in the Bible. ALL: Yes, in scripture Jesus talks about the mission of the seventy.
- ONE: As we prepare to kickoff our 70th year at Mount Vernon, may we be inspired by their mission.
- ALL: For the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
- ONE: Let us then be emboldened, going out in pairs declaring that the Kingdom of God is near!

ALL: Reaching out to... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve. Let us worship God!

† MORNING SONG

"Gather Us In" GATHER US IN

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away, See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a mystr'y we are the old who yearn for your face, We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong; Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion, lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light-years away, but Here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; Gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

+ PRAYER FOR HOPE

God of Wisdom, we come before you each and every Sunday to heed your Word. From that Word you inspire us to use our voices. Through our collective voice we have discerned that you are leading us to Reach Out To... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

May we <u>welcome</u> expansively. May all those who come to this church or who meet us on the street know that the Spirit of the Living God dwells within and through us.

May we <u>worship</u> passionately. May all who come to this courtyard, sanctuary, garden, or wherever else you may find two or more gathered know that the redemptive work of Jesus Christ is present.

May we <u>share</u> abundantly. We have been given so much. May all who come, find what they seek or know that they can ask, for we share not out of a sense of ownership but rather a call to build community.

May we <u>serve</u> joyfully. Let us serve not out of a sense of duty. Let us serve out of a sense of hope. Let us serve not the one that we see as other, but let us serve the one we see as brother, sister, and friend. For our calling as Christians is to love.

Let these be our Words, and let these Words express our hope. Amen.

+ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are hopeful. ALL: Thanks be to God.

+ RESPONSE #432

"Song of Hope" ARGENTINA

May the God of hope go with us every day, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

> Refrain: Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all, Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Rev. Abernethy

(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

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:1-12

HOMILY

As you hear

this message, may you

consider how you reach out to welcome,

serve in a way glorifies God

and makes God's name

known.

worship, share, and

"Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve."

RESPONSE

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967: 9.35-9.38)

Wherever the church exists, its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world.

The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.

The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church's fidelity.

Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry and is responsible for the integrity of their witness in their own particular situation. They are entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community and are subject to its advice and correction. They in turn, in their own competence, help to guide the church.

OFFERTORY

"Good, Good Father" Lifeway Worship Emi Lutz

Wendy Hagenau

† 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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	Rev. Abernethy
INVITATION TO THE TABLE	Rev. Toney-Schmitt
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING	Shari Freeman
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.

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

Rev. Abernethy

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" ST. BRENDAN'S

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (*refrain*)

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, We will work with each other, we will work side by side, And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (*refrain*)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son, And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (*refrain*)

+BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"On Eagle's Wings" Michael Joncas

"

Donna Maini

Rev. Abernethy

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



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

mvpchurch.org

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			
4	September 17	John 2:13-22, "Simon the Zealot", Rev. Barrett Abernethy		
	September 24	Matthew 9:9-13, "Matthew", Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern		



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 TODAY. The small groups will begin September 17.



Presbyterian Women: The Circle of Grace will meet today, September 10, at the home of Lisa Cumming. The Day Circle will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 10:00am in the Chapel. Pat Davis will teach Lesson 1, *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.



Senior Adults - Mystery Matinee "The Way", Saturday, September 16th, 1pm Session Room

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

September 10, 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 PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE grants to meet to 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 <u>mvpchurch.org/give</u> and designating it for PDA Maui.



The September Communion Offering is for the Food Pantries at the Community Assistance Center. CAC provides basic needs assistance for Dunwoody and Sandy Springs neighbors to prevent homelessness and hunger while promoting selfsufficiency and empowering them to thrive. For more information, please go to www.ourcac.org.



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: It is time to train more Stephen Ministers. If you have questions, feel free to call Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader. Please prayerfully consider changing your life and the lives of others through Stephen Ministry participation. Training is skillsbased and equips Stephen Ministers with what they will be doing. We will need men and women, 18 years or older. Please contact a pastor or 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 James Ballew, Kathy Havey, Fay Henricks, Megan Kendall, Kendra Kirz, Mary Lynch, Chuck McCrory, Meredith Nash, Andy Nelson, Carter Ramsey, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Bev Northrop who died August 27. Funeral service will be held at MVPC Saturday, October 7 at 2pm. Reception to follow in Kirk Center.

Attendance:	9/3/23	Worship	87
		Online	6

<u>Financial Update</u>							
September 1-6	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget				
Pledge Member Giving Member Giving Non-Pledge Non-Member Giving &	\$ 5,060 \$ 2,825		\$471,275 \$60,000				
Loose Offering Total	\$ 30 \$ 7,915	\$ 5,024 \$ 403,760	\$ 9,000 \$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