

Needlepoint By:  
Lib Speer

**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**OCTOBER 15, 2023 • 10:30 AM**  
***Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.***

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

James, son of Alphaeus, is sometimes called James, the Less or Younger. The open bible on his shield symbolizes his missionary zeal in spreading the Word of God. Legend tells us that James also suffered martyrdom. His enemies, not satisfied with his death, showed their hatred by sawing his body apart.

**GATHERING**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“Prelude in C”**  
Donna Maini

J. S. Bach

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Some disciples we know so well.

**ALL: Others we hardly know at all.**

ONE: Today we meet James ... the Less? Or is it James, Son of Alphaeus?

**ALL: We are not completely sure.**

ONE: What can we be sure of, church?

**ALL: That the mission was and is true for all Christ’s disciples!**

ONE: To go out two by two, enter into the homes, and anoint those who are sick.

**ALL: Let us live out our mission today and beyond. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #430**

**“Come Sing, O Church in Joy”**

DARWALL’S 148TH

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend, let wisdom be our guide,  
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O Church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o’er the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

The word martyr means "witness" in Greek. A martyr witnesses to their beliefs by dying for them. Christian martyrdom began with Stephen (Acts 7:59) and for some represents the highest form of imitation to Christ.

## † PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of the Martyrs, our journey with the disciples began by seeing the knitted knife Nathanael endured. Last week, we saw the knitted spear that is believed to have ended the life of Thomas. Today as we meet James we see a knitted saw marking his violent end according to tradition. On this morning, when we once again celebrate the resurrection of new life found in your Son, Jesus Christ, we ask: Should the cost of discipleship be a violent and tragic death? Is that what you want for the people who profess your holy name? We believe it's not. We know that Christ is the Prince of Peace. So as we heed the call to follow and proclaim your wonderful name may a spirit of peace reign throughout. May we be people who profess by the pen and not the sword, and may all who disagree turn to the truth found in words and not weapons. We offer this confession and long for this hope in your name ... (*silent confession*) ... Amen.

## † ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## † RESPONSE (*see insert*)

**"As the Deer"**

AS THE DEER

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Shari Freeman

(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

Mark 6:6b-13

### HOMILY

"Seats of Discipleship: James the Lesser"

## RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from The Theological Declaration of Barmen*)

Rev. Abernethy

The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.

This thesis from the Declaration of Barmen is based on Eph. 4:15-16 which speaks of the church being knit together and growing into maturity in Christ. We are charged with bearing testimony to a sinful world and to not give in to the prevailing ideological convictions of the day (in Barmen's case, it was Nazi Germany).

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Shari Freeman

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

“His Eye Is On the Sparrow”

Amanda Lower, Soloist

Anna Jean Lower, Guitar

† 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

Mark Fifield

## SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*)

**“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”**

SWING LOW

*Refrain:*

Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see coming for to carry me home?  
A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home. O, (*refrain*)

If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home,  
Tell all my friends I’m coming too, coming for to carry me home. O, (*refrain*)

The brightest day that ever I saw, coming for to carry me home,  
When Jesus washed my sins away, coming for to carry me home. O, (*refrain*)

I’m sometimes up and sometimes down, coming for to carry me home,  
But still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home. O, (*refrain*)

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

**“Prelude in G Minor”**

J. S. Bach

Donna Maini

Leading Today’s Worship Service  
**Rev. Barrett Abernethy**, Senior Pastor  
**Donna Maini**, Accompanist  
**Roger Scanlan**, Choral Conductor  
**Shari Freeman**, Seminary Intern  
**Amanda Lower**, Soloist  
**Anna Jean Lower**, Guitar

*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....



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

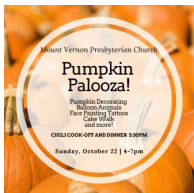
**Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!**

**Visitors & Membership:** Please go to our website: [mvpchurch.org](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:

#### Fall Sermon Series: Seats of Discipleship

- October 22** "Thaddeus/Judas, Son of James", John 14:18-24, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
- October 29** Outdoor, All Saints' Day, Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
Dedication of new church labyrinth



**Pumpkin Palooza:** Sunday, October 22, 4-7pm. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for a fun afternoon including face painting, pumpkin decorating, cake walk, and more! We will have a chili cookoff too!



**CAC Concert:** November 9 @ 7pm at Temple Sinai. Please support our mission partner and our choir as they perform at this special concert. Tickets are \$25 and all proceeds benefit CAC. Signup at the Senior Adult table in the Narthex.



**"SOCK"tober:** All during the month of October we will be collecting new or gently used men's, women's, and children's socks to benefit many of our Outreach partners.

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

**October 15, 2023**

