

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.

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

# GATHERING

# CHIMING OF THE HOUR

**GATHERING MUSIC** 

**"Prelude in C"** Donna Maini J. S. Bach

# WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 sin	g, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in	song!
For Cl	nrist the Lord has led us through the ages lor	ıg!
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!

#### **+ PRAYER FOR CONFESSION**

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. Thanks be to God. ALL:

**+ 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

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

Mark 6:6b-13

HOMILY

"Seats of Discipleship: James the Lesser"

Shari Freeman

#### RESPONSE

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

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.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

#### **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

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).

Rev. Abernethy

Shari Freeman

#### 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" Donna Maini J. S. Bach

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



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

mvpchurch.org

# MVPC Announcements....





# 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 DiscipleshipOctober 22"Thaddeus/Judas, Son of James", John 14:18-24,<br/>Rev. Isaac Toney-SchmittOctober 29Outdoor, All Saints' Day, Rev. Barrett Abernethy<br/>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!





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

Giving





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 met Tuesday, October 10, at 10:00am in the Session Room. Beth Abernethy taught Lesson 4, *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** met 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

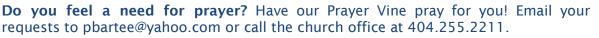
Present Word". Crossroads meets in the Session Room and is studying "The Language





of God" by Francis Collins. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information. Stephen Ministry: Stephen's Ministry is named after the biblical Stephen whose spiritual gift was connecting with, nourishing, and caring for his church community. As counselors are provided in schools to help young people deal with the emotional and physical problems that distract from learning, so, in a church community, we provide skilled laypersons that members can count on to help them through difficult times. Our Stephen Ministers, though not counselors, have solid training in loss, grief, suicide prevention, illness, dying, and recognizing deepening depression, and

dementia. We are aligned to a local, sliding scale counseling center for referrals. Contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get started. Refer a suffering friend or neighbor.



**Prayer Concerns:** Eleanor Brazell, Dede Callahan, Fay Hendricks, Megan Kendall, Mary Lynch, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Meredith Nash, Andy Nelson, Carter Ramsey, Virginia & Mary Lea Woods, and people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

**Congratulations** as we celebrate the ordination of former MVPC staff member TJ Shirley who is being ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Long Lake, MN today!

Attendance:	10/8/23	Worship	81
		Online	2

<u>Financial Update</u>						
October 6-12		Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget		
Pledge Member Giving Member Giving Non-Pledge Non-Member Giving &		6,142 1,385	\$ 379,319 \$ 65,670	\$471,275 \$60,000		
Loose Offering Total	\$ <b>\$</b>	76 <b>7,603</b>	\$    6,523 <b>\$ 451,512</b>	\$    9,000 <b>\$540,275</b>		

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