

Needlepoint By: Jan Carroll

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 22, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

† For those who are able, please stand.

Thaddaeus, also called Jude and Labbaeus, is an apostle about which little is known. His chosen symbol is a sailboat with its mast in the shape of a cross. Tradition tell us he made many missionary journeys with Simon the Zealot.

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GATHERING MUSIC

"Here I Am To Worship" Emi Lutz, Guitar Hillsong Worship

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER OF PRAISE "Sanctuary"

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a Sanctuary Pure and Holy, tried and true With Thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for you.

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Sometimes, Great God, we know very little about your disciples.

ALL: Today we meet Judas (not Iscariot), also known as Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus.

ONE: From the names, however, we learn a great deal. For Thaddeus means ...

ALL: Hearty!

ONE: While Labbaeus means ...

ALL: Courageous!

ONE: Today, may we be hearty to our fellow neighbors and courageous in expressing our faith.

ALL: Reveal yourself to us, Lord! Let us worship God!

+ MORNING SONG #461

"God is Here!"

ABBOT'S LEIGH

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts

Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; Here are table, font, and pulpit; Here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speak,
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold, Here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:

We, who cannot live without You, we adore You! We believe!

+ PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Rev. Abernethy

Ever-Present God, today you tell us "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." As we gather this morning, we ask that you impress this call to belonging upon us;

In a society where alienation has bred political polarization and paralysis,

In an age where people have killed and been killed because we have senselessly mistrusted and believed assumptions based in hate,

In a season where the worst and the most cynical make it to the forefront of our thoughts before what is best and what is grace-filled. For all of this, forgive us;

what are some ways we can welcome God to remove hardness of our heart? What are some ways we can welcome God to restore that which

stresses and

afflicts our bodies?

As you pray,

consider:

"Blest Be The Tie That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

Tie us together, dear God. Remind us that we are called to connect in love. Remove the assumptions of our heart, for when you do, the hardness erodes and our bodies are healthier. Ensure that there are no orphans. Ensure that all find a place of belonging, and from that may your love of humanity transform that which separates us from being the full body of Christ ... (silent confession) ... Amen.

+ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #438 (v. 1) "Blest Be The Tie That Binds"

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac 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.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Keith Bumgarner

SCRIPTURE John 14:18-24 Diane Bumgarner

HOMILY "Seats of Discipleship: Thaddaeus" Rev. Toney-Schmitt

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Heidelberg Catechism)

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

But why are you called a Christian?

Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.

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

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You" Chancel Choir

John Rutter

† 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

Keith Bumgarner

SENDING

(During this hymn members are invited to come forward and place their pledge cards in the basket.)

+ SONG FOR DISMISSAL #422

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" BEACH SPRING

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise; Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days. A long time practice of MVPC, bringing our pledge cards to the communion table, is our way of proclaiming that our gifts belong to Christ and we are vessels for his ministry.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure too You have entrusted, gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

"Better is One Day" Emi Lutz, Guitar The Worship Initiative

Leading Today's Worship Service
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Donna Maini, Accompanist
Roger Scanlan, Choral Conductor
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern
Emi Lutz, 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.

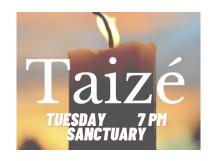
We are located at: 471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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

MVPC Announcements....





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 29 Outdoor, All Saints' Day, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Dedication of new church labyrinth

November 5 "Seats of Discipleship: Judas", John 13:21-30, Rev. Barrett Abernethy





Pumpkin Palooza: TODAY, 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!

Dutch Lunch with the Pastors: Next Sunday, Oct. 29 following worship, join Isaac and Shari at City Barbeque (corner of Abernathy and Roswell Rd).



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.



MVPC Hikes: Tomorrow, October 23 at 8:30am at Big Trees Preserve. Meet us at the church at 8:15am and we'll carpool, or you can go directly there (7645 Roswell Rd., NE, Sandy Springs - next to the North Fulton Annex Building).

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!





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 November 14. Sarah Chalpan will teach Lesson 7, *An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus*, in the Horizons Bible Study: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. The **Book Circle** will meet on November 10 at 10:00am in the Session Room. They will review *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. The **Circle of Grace** November 12, 5-6:30pm meet at Shelly Ray's home to prepare the College Care Packages. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lisa Cumming.



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.



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, Fay Hendricks, Megan Kendall, Mary Lynch, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Meredith Nash, Andy Nelson, Carter Ramsey, Virginia & Mary Lea Woods, and people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Attendance: 10/15/23 Worship 95 Online 15

Financial Update

October 13-19	Actual		Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ \$	5,790 535	\$ 385,109 \$ 66,205	\$471,275 \$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering Total	\$ \$	144 6,469	\$ 6,667 \$ 457,981	\$ 9,000 \$540,275