



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”

Hillsong Worship

Emi Lutz, Guitar

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER OF PRAISE

“Sanctuary”

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;

“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.

As you pray, consider: 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?

† 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”

John Rutter

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

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.

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

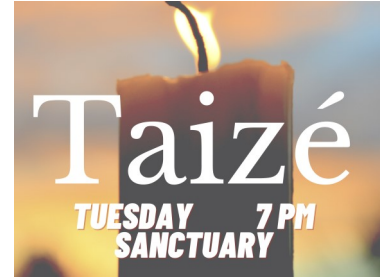


mvpchurch.org

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

A long time practice of MVP, 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.

MVPC Announcements....

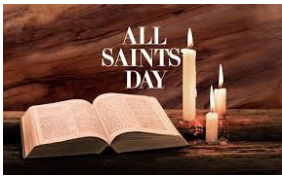


Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!

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



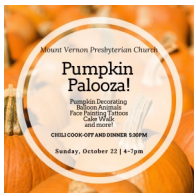
October 29

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. Sign up 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!

October 22, 2023

