

Needlepoint By:
Dee Hutchinson & Jane Doty

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 8, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Thomas, a doubter by nature, became convinced of Jesus' resurrection. His doubt led to lifelong faithfulness as a fearless evangelist. The carpenter's square on his shield symbolizes the churches he built while on missionary journeys. The spear represents his martyrdom by jealous non-believers. The leather girdle was worn over the other clothing and served as a protection. The girdle was used by Christ to symbolize preparation for any service that God might require (Luke 12:35).

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GATHERING MUSIC

"O Come to the Altar"
Emi Lutz, Guitar

Elevation Worship

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: After his crucifixion, Jesus appeared to the disciples gathered in a locked room.

ALL: **They were overjoyed! But, Thomas was not in the room with them.**

ONE: Today we will hear Thomas tell the disciples that *unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,*

ALL: *and put my finger into the mark and my hand in his side, I will not believe.*

ONE: That is exactly what Jesus invited him to do.

ALL: **Thomas' doubts are heard and responded to.**

ONE: Thomas' witness to God can inform our witness to God.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG** (*see insert*) **"Come, Now is the Time to Worship"**

Brian Doerksen,
Vineyard Songs

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are, to worship. Come, just as you are, before your God. Come. (3x)

One day every tongue will confess You are God. One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now. (2x)

MORNING SONG continues

† MORNING SONG *(see insert)* “Come! Come! Everybody Worship”

NATALIE

(v. 1,3,5)

Refrain

Come! Come! Everybody worship with a prayer or song of praise!
Come! Come! Everybody worship! Worship God always.

Worship and remember to keep the Sabbath day.
Take a rest and think of God; put your work away! *(refrain)*

Worship and remember your blessings great and small.
Give to God an offering; show your thanks for all! *(refrain)*

Worship and remember that God is like a light,
Showing you the way to go; ever burning bright! *(refrain)*

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Gracious God, you created us with wonderful senses of sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste. Through these senses we experience your loving actions in the world. It is tempting to trust solely our senses so that we must see and smell and hear and touch and taste everything for it to be true. Forgive us for being so confident in our own abilities and our own reasonings. Re-connect our senses to their intended purpose: means by which we experience your love and share your love with others. Respond to our doubts as they come, and call us into discipleship with all of our senses ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE *(see insert)*

“Change My Heart, Oh God”

(Choir sings the first round, Congregation to sing 2x)

Change my heart, O God,

Make it ever true;

Change my heart, O God,

May I be like you.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. 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

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

John 20:24-29

HOMILY

“Seats of Discipleship: Thomas”

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from A Brief Statement of Faith, section 11.2)*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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

“Let the Praise Go ‘Round”
Chancel Choir

William Boyce

† 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

Mike Havey

“Old Hundredth” is a hymn tune from the Genevan Psalter. The Genevan Psalter is a 1539 book containing Psalms set to music. It was created under the supervision of John Calvin for liturgical use by the Reformed churches of the city of Geneva in the 16th century.

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory” BATTLE HYMN

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword.
God’s truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah!
God’s truth is marching on.

God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat
and is sifting out all human hearts before the judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer; O be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on. (*refrain*)

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free,
while God is marching on. (*refrain*)

This song was written in 1861 by American author, poet, and abolitionist Julia Ward Howe. Howe adapted this song from the famous soldiers’ song “John Brown’s Body.” In contrast to the lyrics of the soldiers’ song, her version links the Union cause with God’s vengeance on the Day of Judgment and draws from Isaiah 63:1-6 and Revelation 14:14-19.

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“Rest On Us”
Emi Lutz, Guitar

Maverick City Music

Leading Today’s Worship Service
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Donna Maini, Accompanist
Roger Scanlan, Choral Conductor
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

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.

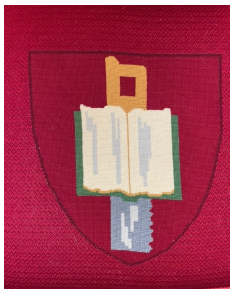
Using the enclosed envelope, please bring your pledge card on Stewardship Sunday, October 22; mail your pledge card to: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358; or send an email to yvonne@mvpchurch.org.

Stewardship Sunday October 22

Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!

Visitors & Membership: Please go to our website: mvpchurch.org, 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

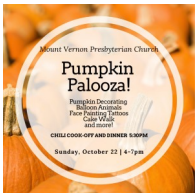
- October 15** *"James the Less"*, Mark 6:6b-13, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
- October 22** *"Thaddeus/Judas, Son of James"*, John 14:18-24, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



Blessing of the Animals: TODAY, Sunday, Oct. 8 from 2-4pm outside Gailey Hall. Bring your pets to receive a blessing. Also, bring socks for SOCKtober month!



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



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!



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.

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

October 8, 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 grants to meet 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 mvpchurch.org/give and designating it for PDA Maui.



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 Tuesday, October 10, at 10:00am in the Chapel. Beth Abernethy is teaching 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** will meet 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: Often carrying the burden alone becomes unbearable and untenable. It is a blessing, indeed, that our church has a group who signed up to help manage that difficulty. Our Stephen Ministers have knowledge and skills and feel a calling to help others. If you have a heavy burden, a loss you cannot get beyond, a move you are unhappy with, a new health diagnosis you are struggling with, please let us help. Contact a pastor or Pat Barte, 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 pbarte@yahoo.com or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

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.

Attendance: 10/1/23 Worship 94
 Online 12

Financial Update

October 1-5	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 8,454	\$ 373,177	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 1,265	\$ 64,285	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 1,030	\$ 6,447	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 10,749	\$ 443,909	\$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