

Needlepoint By: Luan Vinson

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TWENTY FORTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 12, 2023 • 10:30 AM Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

† For those who are able, please stand.

James was the son of Zebedee and the brother of the apostle John. He is represented by three scallop shells, a symbol of pilgrimage, which reflect James' zealous missionary spirit. James is the only apostle whose martyrdom is described in the New Testament. In Acts 12:2 we are told King Herod Agrippa killed James with a sword.

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GATHERING MUSIC Fa

Fanfare on "Lobe Den Herren"

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

- ONE: The disciples traveled near and far to share the Gospel story.
- ALL: Some were welcomed, some were mocked, some were imprisoned,
- ONE: And some were killed. Today we meet James the Greater, a disciple present for some of Jesus' greatest miracles,
- ALL: And the first disciple to be killed because of the Gospel. James' witness to God can guide our witness to God.
- ONE: Let us worship God!

† MORNING SONG #263 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might; Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above, thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small; in all life Thou livest, the true life of all; We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light, thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight; All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

arr. Craig A. Penfield Rev. Barrett Abernethy Stan Williams

ST. DENIO

+ PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

God of Grace, call us to life in you. The disciples were led outward by a Gospel story that gripped their hearts and urged them to share. They were fearless and even reckless in their love for you. They were filled by life lived in you. Illuminate the cracks within us where we shy away from you and the boundaries that limit us in our love for you. Enliven us with the confidence of the Gospel story that longs to be led out into the world. Forgive us, and fill us to the brim with life lived wholly in you ... (silent confession) Amen.

+ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. ALL:

+ RESPONSE #319 (*refrain 2x*) "Spirit" SPIRIT Written in 1975, the composer Spirit, spirit of gentleness, alludes to blow through the wilderness, calling and free, Genesis 2 as **God hovers** Spirit, spirit of restlessness, over the stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea. waters.

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

SCRIPTURE Acts 12:1-5

HOMILY

"Seats of Discipleship: James the Greater"

Rev. Abernethy

Shari Freeman

RESPONSE

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of Belhar 10.5)

We believe that God entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;

We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peace-maker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;

We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

"Be Still, My Soul" Chancel Choir

arr. Craig Courtney

Rev. Abernethy

† 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

Donna Martin

SENDING

+ SONG FOR DISMISSAL #172 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" RESIGNATION RES

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His Name: In pastures fresh He makes me feed, beside the living stream. He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways, And leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death thy presence is my stay; One word of Your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may Your house be my abode, and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; No more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Glorious Majesty"

arr. Lani Smith

Rev. Abernethy

As you enter the "Mission Field" what from this worship will inspire you to reach out to your neighbor this week?

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

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

arr. Lani Sm

RESIGNATION

MVPC Announcements....



Back by Popular Demand...

Zooming Thru the Carols!

What is(are) your favorite Christmas Carol(s)?

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
+	November 19	<i>"Seats of Discipleship: John",</i> John 21:20-25, Shari Freeman
	November 26	Christ the King Sunday, Ephesians 1:15-23, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



Zambia Trip: If you are interested in joining us next summer, July 10-24, please contact Barbara Hughes at thughe5@att.net or Barrett at barrett@mvpchurch.org.

Today we also welcome Jack Eans, VP For Growth and Development for the Alliance for Children Everywhere (ACE).



Zooming Thru the Carols is back! Nov. 27 - Dec. 22 Please give us your favorite carol(s) above, tear it off, and put it in the offering plate or send an email to Debbie debbie@mvpchurch.org.



AV Training: Are you interested in helping us on Sunday mornings? Stay after worship today Sunday, Nov. 12 and we will have a training class.



Mark Your Calendar: Our 70th Anniversary Homecoming Service will be Sunday, May 19, 2024.

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

November 12, 2023



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

Giving





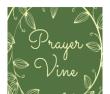
Atlanta. Stirred-Up Ministries is a year-round enrichment program for at-risk youth providing summer sports camps, tutoring, mentoring, and family counseling designed to help the kids succeed in school and embrace God's vision and purpose for their lives. We will Stuff the Bus on Sunday, November 19, so please bring your items by 10:00 AM that day. **Presbyterian Women:** All women are welcome to join any of these PW activities! The **Day Circle** will meet on Nov. 14 at 10am in the Session Room. 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 met on Nov. 10 at 10am. They reviewed 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,

Our November Communion Offering will continue one of our congregation's longest outreach traditions by collecting non-perishable food items for Stirred-Up Ministries to distribute Thanksgiving baskets for vulnerable families in the East Lake area of







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: It is hard to have a heart full of gratitude when your heart is broken, when you are dealing with an unexpected move or diagnosis, if circumstances in your life have suddenly brought you loneliness and isolation, or if holidays remind you of losses. Please know you are not alone and we have people committed to walk through it with you. Our Stephen Ministers are here to help. please utilize us. Please contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a minister to get connected.

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, Rob Russell, Elizabeth(Elo) Small, Mary Lea Woods, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Attendance:	11/5/23	Worship	95
		Online	13

please feel free to contact Lisa Cumming.

	<u>FI</u>			
November 1-8		Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving Member Giving Non-Pledge Non-Member Giving &	\$ \$	6,182 2,700	\$ 406,554 \$ 72,307	\$471,275 \$ 60,000
Loose Offering Total	\$ \$	52 8,934	\$ 7,441 \$ 486,302	\$ 9,000 \$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

Einensiel Undete