

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

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.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #319 (*refrain 2x*)

“Spirit”

SPIRIT

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

Written in 1975, the composer alludes to Genesis 2 as God hovers over the 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

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of Belhar 10.5*)

Rev. Abernethy

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

† 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

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

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Glorious Majesty”

arr. Lani Smith

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



mvpchurch.org

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

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** *"Seats of Discipleship: John"*, 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](mailto: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

