



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

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

John, son of Zebedee and brother of the apostle James, is called the disciple whom Jesus loved. The eagle wing soaring upward from the chalice symbolizes his divine inspiration for the writings attributed to him: the Gospel of John, the three Epistles, and the Revelation. The seven crosses on the chalice represent the seven churches in Asia Minor mentioned in the Revelation. The chalice symbolizes the persecution that John and many other Christians suffered at the hands of Emperor Domitian, who, according to legend, ordered John to drink a cup of poisoned wine. In spite of many attempts on his life, John is said to be the only apostle who died a natural death at an advanced age.

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GATHERING MUSIC

“Rest on Us”

Maverick City Music

Emi Lutz, Guitar

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shari Freeman

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Today, we look at the final seat and the beloved disciple.

ALL: **We celebrate these twelve and what they have taught us this Fall.**

ONE: This morning, John says that if we wrote down everything Jesus did that such a book could not be contained in this world!

ALL: **In the same spirit, we wonder what we have not learned about the disciples and discipleship.**

ONE: That is why we come together each Sunday, to breathe in the Word anew.

ALL: **Faith seeking understanding! The lessons of discipleship are constant. 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 speech,
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

Shari Freeman

God of All the Seats, you speak to us through the stories of disciples past. We celebrate the Rock of Peter, the Beloved John, and even the nearly anonymous James the Less. We have learned how names shape understanding, how calls develop, what it means to serve, and what it means to fall short. Throughout it all, Gracious God, you have revealed yourself to be the one who desires the work of imperfect people. You continue to welcome all to your table. While we may cast judgment, you remind us that a seat is always open to others and to us. Please continue to forgive us of our failings, and as the disciples of the present may we be moved to share the grace that your Son always gives. Lead us to be people who reach out to welcome, worship, share, and serve. For these are the marks of discipleship that always keep a seat open. In your beloved name, we pray ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE *(see insert)*

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son. (2x)

And now let the weak say, “We are strong”,
Let the poor say, “We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!” (2x)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Shari Freeman

*(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

John 21:20-25

HOMILY

“Seats of Discipleship: John”

Shari Freeman

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Heidelberg Catechism*)

Shari Freeman

ONE: What do you believe concerning “the holy catholic church”?

ALL: I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself, a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

ONE: What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?

ALL: First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

Written in Germany in 1563, the Heidelberg Catechism was brought to the North American colonies in 1609, making it the first Reformed confession in North America.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

“What Shall I Render to My God”

AC Lovelace

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

Dick Freeman

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #123

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Even though we typically sing this hymn on Easter Sunday, we are reminded that from the earliest centuries, Christians have recognized that every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, or a “Little Easter.”

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“Set a Fire”

Emi Lutz, Guitar

Will Reagan

Leading Today's Worship Service
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern
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....



Celebrating Mission Partners at MVPC During Advent/Christmas

- Dec. 3: The Mount Vernon School
- Dec. 10: Community Assistance Center
- Dec. 17: Los Niños Primero
- Dec. 24: SS Education Force (10:30am)
Family Promise (5:30pm)

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:



November 26 Christ the King Sunday, *"If Christ is the King, Who is the Queen?"* Ephesians 1:15-23, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

December 3 *"Wonderful Counselor"*, Isaiah 9:2-7 & Matthew 5:1-11, Rev. Barrett Abernethy & Ms. Elisse Hayes, Head of Community & Culture, The Mount Vernon School
(Lunch after worship in Fellowship Hall)



Hanging the Green: Join us on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 5pm in the Sanctuary followed by dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Caroling: We're caroling again this year to our neighborhood Senior Centers! Join us on Dec. 3 at 4pm in Gailey Hall. Dinner will follow at the Mellow Mushroom in Dunwoody Village.



Lunch Bunch: Join Issac & Shari for lunch at City BBQ after worship on Sunday, Nov. 26! You are on your own for transportation and meal costs.



MVPC Take a Hike! Join us on Monday, Nov. 27 at 8:15am and we will walk to the new Sandy Springs Veterans Memorial Park. From there we will cross over to City Springs to see their decorations and stop for coffee at Café Vendome before we walk back to the church.



Senior Adult Movie: "The Man Who Invented Christmas", Sat., Dec. 2 @ 1pm in the Session Room.

Atlanta Concert Band: Come for their annual Christmas Concert in our Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4pm!



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

November 19, 2023



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

Giving



Our **December Communion Offering** is for the International Women's House, established to provide shelter and support services for refugee and immigrant women and their children who are the victims of domestic abuse; and now also serves young women who are the victims of sex trafficking. MVPC provides financial support, donations of household goods and cleaning supplies, and holiday gifts for the children and their moms.



Presbyterian Women: All women are welcome to join any of these PW activities! Presbyterian Women will have the annual Christmas luncheon in **January!** Please mark your calendar for Sunday, Jan. 14, right after the worship service. The **Day Circle** will meet on Dec. 12 and study Lesson 6, *A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus*, in the Horizons Bible Study: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. The **Book Circle** Christmas Luncheon will be at Ann Williams' house on Dec. 8. They will review *The Maid* by Nita Prose.



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:	11/12/23	Worship	97
		Online	11

Financial Update

November 9-15	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 5,574	\$ 412,128	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 1,405	\$ 73,712	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 131	\$ 7,572	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 7,110	\$ 493,412	\$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