



Needlepoint By:  
Leslie Hudgins, Jane Doty,  
Polly Sandidge

**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**NOVEMBER 5, 2023 • 10:30 AM**

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

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

Judas Iscariot is represented by the open money bag with spilled coins, which recalls his betrayal of Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. The rope reminds us that Judas hanged himself after the betrayal in desperate repentance for his awful deed. His name has become symbolic of betrayal and deceit. Therefore he has not been honored with a shield.

**GATHERING**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“Crown Him Lord of All”**

Oliver Holden

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: God’s grace knows no bounds,

**ALL: Even in the face of betrayal and rebellion.**

ONE: God’s grace knows no bounds,

**ALL: Even in the face of death and denial.**

ONE: God’s grace knows no bounds,

**ALL: Even in the face of fear and despair. Let us worship God!**

Read the above margin in tandem with the Call to Worship. Should Judas be defined solely by his betrayal or does God’s grace know no bounds?

† **MORNING SONG #466 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

AZMON

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My dear Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of God’s grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
’Tis music in the sinner’s ears,  
’Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,  
And sets the prisoner free;  
Christ’s blood can make the sinful clean,  
Christ’s blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Grace and God of Mercy, on this day we examine how Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples. On the one hand, we shake our heads in disbelief, failing to understand how Judas could betray you. On the other hand, we fear how we may have responded if we had been in Judas' position. We remember the times we have been part of the crowd, seeking our best interest over what is right and good. We remember the times when we chose the path of safety over loyalty to your way. We remember the times we have wandered away from your presence, only to complain that we are abandoned.

God of the Cross, forgive us for all the ways we have missed the mark and all the ways we have come up short. Through your grace bring us back into relationship with you and with our neighbors. Help us find the path again ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #85(v. 1) "What Wondrous Love is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

This Southern Christian folk hymn from 1811 is often sung during Holy Week because of the haunting movement of its music. We sing it here because we believe Christ's light can overcome all.

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

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

John 13:21-30

HOMILY

"Seats of Discipleship: Judas"

## RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Westminster Larger Catechism, 7.159*) Rev. Abernethy

Q. 49. How did Christ humble himself in his death?

**Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors; having also conflicted with the terrors of death and the powers of darkness, felt and borne the weight of God's wrath, he laid down his life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the cross.**

**OFFERTORY**

**“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”**  
The Chancel Choir

Harold Friedell

† **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**

Sophie Galen

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Rev. Abernethy

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Shari Freeman

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & 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.**

**HYMN #513**

**“Let Us Break Bread Together”**

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion.  
If you prefer to remain seated, an elder will bring communion to you.)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“I’ll Fly Away”

I’LL FLY AWAY

Some glad morning when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away;  
to a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away.

*Refrain*

I’ll fly away, O glory, I’ll fly away.  
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I’ll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have gone, I’ll fly away;  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I’ll fly away. (*refrain*)

Just a few more weary days and the, I’ll fly away;  
To a land where joys shall never end, I’ll fly away. (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Mark Hayes

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](http://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](http://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 12**     *“Seats of Discipleship: John”*, John 21:20-25, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
- November 19**     *“Seats of Discipleship: James the Greater”*, Acts 12:1-5, Shari Freeman



**CAC Concert:** this Thursday, 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. This is the last day to signup at the Senior Adult table in the Narthex.



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



**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 next Sunday, Nov. 12 and we will have a training class.

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



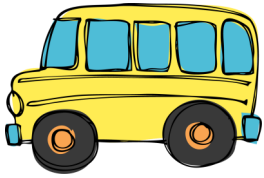
*Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it down the pew as you greet your neighbor!*

**November 5, 2023**



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

Giving



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 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** will meet on Nov. 10 at 10am in the Session Room. They will review *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, please feel free to contact Lisa Cumming.



**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:** Is your heart heavy? Are you trying to carry worries or grief or caretaking woes alone? There is a group, our Stephen Ministers, on our campus who are trained to walk with you, listen and hear you, give you encouragement, provide a safe harbor in which to unload, and offer resources you may not be aware of. Confidentiality is a foundational part of our ministry. Please contact Pat Barte, 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](mailto: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, Virginia & Mary Lea Woods, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

**Attendance:** 10/29/23 Outdoor Worship 105

### Financial Update

October 27-31	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 12,291	\$ 400,372	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 3,182	\$ 69,607	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 465	\$ 7,389	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,938</b>	<b>\$ 477,368</b>	<b>\$540,275</b>

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)