



MVPC community members
Sally Williams and Kathy Harbin
volunteering at CAC this past week.

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2023 • 10:30 AM

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

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

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GATHERING MUSIC

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”
Emi Lutz, Guitar

Maverick City Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Mike & Kathy Havey

OPENING PRAYER

† **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

CAC/MVPC Community

ONE: This morning, we celebrate the bond between the Community Assistance Center and Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church.

ALL: **We give thanks for this sacred partnership grounded in the call to serve the least of these in our midst.**

ONE: As we continue our Advent journey, we look forward to the birth of God’s Mighty Son, Jesus Christ.

ALL: **We light the candle of peace, grateful for the work of volunteers who long for neighbors to find peace in their lives.**

ONE: Mold us into your image so we can carry out the mighty acts of God!

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #9**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *(refrain)*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *(refrain)*

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Mighty God, you have come into the world, and we have not recognized you. You have given us everything, and we have failed to respond with gratitude. You have given us your Word, and we have answered with empty promises. You have given us your light, and we have hidden ourselves from view. You have given us your love, and we have failed to pass it on to others. You have given us your life, and even this precious gift we have not received. Have mercy on us, O God; forgive our failures, and open our eyes to see you here and now. Give us the faith and power to become who you created us to be; beloved children, full of grace and truth ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

CHILDREN'S HANDBELLS & INTERPRETIVE DANCE 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.)

GREETINGS FROM COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER

George Northrop
Career Center Director, CAC

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7; John 1:1-5

HOMILY

“Mighty God”

Rev. Abernethy

CAC was started by a group of 10 faith communities in Sandy Springs right here on the MVPC campus in 1987. Today, it serves 2,500 families a year across 4 locations in Dunwoody and Sandy Springs.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Second Helvetic Confession, 5.062*)

We further believe and teach that the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, was predestinated or foreordained from eternity by the Father to be the Savior of the world. And we believe that he was born, not only when he assumed flesh of the Virgin Mary, and not only before the foundation of the world was laid, but by the Father before all eternity in an inexpressible manner. For Isaiah said: "Who can tell his generation?" And Micah says: "His origin is from of old, from ancient days." And John said in the Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Therefore, with respect to his divinity the Son is coequal and consubstantial with the Father; true God, not only in name or by adoption or by any merit, but in substance and nature, as the apostle John has often said: "This is the true God and eternal life." Amen.

The Second Helvetic Confession brought together Lutherans & Reformed (Presbyterian) Christians in the early part of the Reformation. Here we proclaim how Christ is Emmanuel, God with us, in the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Shari Freeman

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

"Wake, Awake"
Chancel Choir

John Horman

† 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

Beppie Lever

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*)

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
(*refrain*)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (*refrain*)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
(*refrain*)

This hymn is a paraphrase of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), when Mary realizes what God is doing by bringing Christ into the world and she serving as the Theotokos, or God-bearer.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

Emi Lutz, Guitar

Hillsong Worship

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
Emi Lutz, Guitar

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

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:



December 17 "Everlasting Father", Isaiah 9:2-7 & John 10:20-30,
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

December 19 Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary

December 24 10:30am Lessons & Carols
4:30pm Live Nativity
5:30pm Candlelight Service, Luke 2:1-20, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Zooming thru the Carols this week: Monday - Still, Still, Still, Tuesday - Once in a Royal City, Wednesday - Little Town of Bethlehem, Thursday - I Saw Three Ships, Friday - Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming



Atlanta Concert Band: Come for their annual Christmas Concert in our Sanctuary TODAY at 4pm!



Family Promise: We will be hosting December 23-31! Volunteer opportunities are open for dinner hosts, dinner providers, overnight hosts, and gift card donations. SignUp Genius links will be in the weekly Happenings email and posted on the church website.



Senior Adults: Seniors Holiday Luncheon at La Madeleine, next Sunday, December 17, at noon, White Elephant Gift Exchange, car pools available. Sign up at the Seniors table in the Narthex.

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

December 10, 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! Please mark your calendar for Sunday, Jan. 14, right after the worship service for our Annual Luncheon. This New Year's Luncheon will be in combination with Circle of Grace and Young Adults. Jill Felts, former member, will speak on Realizing Your Life's Blueprint. Cost \$20. Sign up in the Narthex.

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.



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. Both classes meet at 9:30am. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Stephen Ministry: The holidays are not joyful for all. If you are carrying a heavy weight, this time of hectic joy can overwhelm and deeply sadden you. Please remember that our Stephen Ministers are here to walk with you until your problem is resolved or the burden made lighter. Contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, 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, Susan Doyle, Eliana, Fay Hendricks, Megan Kendall, Mary Lynch, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Meredith Nash, Carter Ramsey, Rob Russell, Elizabeth(Elo) Small, Gail Williams, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Attendance: 12/3/23 Worship 155
 Online 17

Financial Update

December 1-5	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 3,101	\$ 425,036	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 581	\$ 75,175	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 580	\$ 8,374	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 4,262	\$ 508,585	\$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