



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 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

“The Friendly Beasts”

arr. Dan Forrest

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Maritza Morelli, Executive Director, Los Niños Primero &
Dr. Daniel Black, Mighty Voices of Power Choir

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Oh Happy Day”

LNP Students &
Mighty Voices of Power Choir

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

† LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Los Niños Primero/MVPC Community

ONE: This morning, we celebrate the bond between Los Niños Primero and Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church.

ALL: **We give thanks for this sacred partnership committed to empowering and inspiring Latino children and their families.**

ONE: The journey through the Advent Season can be long, but we rest in the assurance that the light of justice will come.

ALL: **That is why we light the candle of joy, knowing that our joyful work and preparation is for a Savior who sees each person as a precious creation.**

ONE: O Everlasting Father deliver your child into the world!

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

LOS NIÑOS PRIMERO HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE

Isabel Mester, Music Director

“Atención”
“Jolly Old Saint Nicholas”
“Jingle Bells”
“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”
“Feliz Navidad”

M. Inglod
M. Murry
J. Pierpoint
A. Warrel
J. Feliciano

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

Isaiah 9:2-7 & John 5:19-24

HOMILY

“Everlasting Father”

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Poor Pilgrim of Sorrow”

Mighty Voices of Power

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Nicene Creed*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

"From the Day He Was Born, He Was Magnified"

Mighty Voices of Power

† 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

Jeannie Myers, Director of Academics & Outreach

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“Feliz Navidad”

José Feliciano

Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad
Prospero Año y Felicidad.

Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad
Prospero Año y Felicidad.

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
From the bottom of my heart.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

BLESSING

“O, Come Let us Adore Him”
Mighty Voices of Power

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

*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:



- 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
- December 31** "Star of Wonder", Matthew 2:1-11, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



Zooming thru the Carols this week: Monday - O, Holy Night, Tuesday - Christmas Must be Something More, Wednesday - Go Tell it On the Mountain, Thursday - Angels from the Realms of Glory, Friday - Silent Night



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



Senior Adults: Seniors Holiday Luncheon at La Madeleine, TODAY at noon, White Elephant Gift Exchange, car pools available.



New Directory: We will be doing a new pictorial directory for our 70th Anniversary! We need you to stay after worship any Sunday in January beginning Jan. 7 for a casual picture of you and your family. No purchase required!

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, Tues. Dec. 26, Fri. Dec. 29, Mon. Jan. 1

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

December 17, 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 when you signup in the Narthex.



Adult Sunday School: Discovery meets in the Chapel and is using the curriculum “*The Present Word*”. Crossroads meets in the Session Room and will use a DVD series titled “*Great Figures of the New Testament*” by Amy-Jill Levine. Both classes meet at 9:30am. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Stephen Ministry: We are so thankful for the six people who stepped forward to become Stephen Ministers. It insures that our program remains strong into the future. They will begin training in January. Stephen Ministry is a blessed addition to a caring church, as it offers help to a temporary situation and a haven in hard times. Because of confidentiality and training, Stephen Ministers can add immediate comfort and relief to a spiraling situation and be a quiet anchor during resolution. We want to be here for you when you need us , whether the problem is great or small. Many of the situations we deal with relate to grief, divorce, chronic disease, job loss, a move, empty nesting and retirement, loss of a child, mid-life changes, caregiving. Please contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader to get involved.



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, Isabelle Vannucci, Barbara Wasson, Gail Williams, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, Turkey, and Zambia.

Attendance: 12/10/23 Worship 112
 Online 21

Financial Update

December 6-13	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 9,686	\$ 434,722	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 6,200	\$ 81,375	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 120	\$ 8,494	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 16,006	\$ 524,591	\$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