



Welcome Mount Vernon School!

**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 3, 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**

**“Build My Life”**  
Emi Lutz, 12th Grade

Housefires

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**MINUTE FOR MINISTRY**

Kristy Lundstrom  
Head of School, The Mount Vernon School

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

The Mount Vernon School/  
Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Community

ONE: This morning, we celebrate the bond between The Mount Vernon School and Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church.

**ALL: We give thanks for this sacred partnership grounded in Christian values that has fostered spiritual wisdom and worldly knowledge for over 50 years.**

ONE: As we begin this Advent Season, we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ, our Wonderful Counselor.

**ALL: We light the candle of hope, grateful for the counselors who educate our children and point us to a future filled with wonder and excitement!**

ONE: Let us hold this light in our heart as we eagerly await the light that has yet to shine.

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“People Round the World”**

Mini Melody Chorus

† **HYMN #40**

**“Joy to the World”**

ANTIOCH

Palmer Provow, 3rd Grade, Violin Intro

Joy to the world, the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Wonderful Counselor, we come before you today to celebrate the communal vision found in this shared space. Often, we are too quick to draw lines, build fences, or hoard resources. You paint a different picture, however. In your infinite wisdom you delivered a Son into the world who longs for children to gather together from north, south, east, and west. That is the same vision our shared space is meant to foster. Where one space is not just school or church space, but rather the lines are blurred. Let us bear witness to this vision, because when we see the value in one another, then we know that you, Wonderful Counselor, are at work. For then shared space will be seen for what it truly is: holy space ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

Mustang Melody Chorus

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

Penelope Wooldridge, 5th grade

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7 & Matthew 5:1-11

HOMILY

“Wonderful Counselor”

Rev. Abernethy &  
Elisse Hayes, Head of Community & Culture

## RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

Rev. Abernethy

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“Every Valley”  
The Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

† 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

Molly Hudson, Director of Lower School

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
Ava Liew, 2nd Grade, Piano

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Palmer Provow, 3rd Grade, Violin

*(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

Shelley Searcy, Head of Lower Campus

## SENDING

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Coventry Carol”

Mini/Mustang Melodies Chorus

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #56 (verses 1,4,6)

“The First Nowell”

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. (*refrain*)

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood our life hath bought. (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Leading Today's Worship Service

Amanda Lower - Director

Katie Jennison - Director

### Mustang Melodies

Brooke Colon  
Kaki Davis  
Aneesa Eftekhari  
Riley Grant  
Eva Harrigan  
Sayward Harris  
Hazel Howe  
Claire Krauss  
Brooke Marino  
Madelyn Stillwagon  
Maddie Thomas

### Mini Melodies

Evie Abernethy  
Emory Brainerd  
Cece Grove  
Jack Harrison  
Ginger Hubbard  
Grace Hudson  
Morgan Hudson  
Asher Huff  
Kai von Vierregge

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](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:



**December 10** *"Mighty God"*, Isaiah 9:2-7, John 1:1-18, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

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

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



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



**Zooming thru the Carols this week:** Monday - Rise Up, Tuesday - God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Wednesday - Do You Hear What I Hear?, Thursday - Holly & the Ivy, Friday - Christmas, Baby Please



**Atlanta Concert Band:** Come for their annual Christmas Concert in our Sanctuary next Sunday, Dec. 10 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, Sunday, December 17, at noon, White Elephant Gift Exchange, car pools available. Sign up at the Seniors table.

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

**December 3, 2023**

