



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 14, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Here I Am to Worship”

Tim Hughes

Emi Lutz, Guitar

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Today we celebrate what it means to reach out to worship together.

ALL: **For worship is at the heart of the church’s life. All that we do is rooted in the worship of the Triune God.**

ONE: This communal act of gathering, proclaiming, responding, and then sending out God’s Word is meant to follow what the disciples saw on the Emmaus Road.

ALL: **So may our eyes be opened.**

ONE: May our hearts be filled.

ALL: **And may our hope be seen by all. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #482**

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Joachim Neandor wrote this hymn in 1680 as a response to the final invitation of Psalm 150: *Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!*

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God in Christ, for over 100,000 Sundays you have invited us into your sanctuary so we might draw ever closer to you. Over time, however, we have become complacent. We say to ourselves “it’s just another Sunday.” Yet today, as we walk that Emmaus Road with you, we are reminded that as soon as you left the grave you longed to be in worship with your people. You gathered with the disciples, you proclaimed what the Word meant, you broke bread, and then you sent them out into the world. Let us be inspired by this truth with our eyes open and our hearts afresh. Let us not become complacent. Let us be moved, for worship inspires us to welcome, share, and serve. For it is through worship that we see who you are and we see who you want us to be ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“God Is So Good ”

PROVIDENCE

God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, God’s so good to me. (2x)

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

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-35

HOMILY

“Worship”

RESPONSE

Most Confessions in the Reformed tradition were written by groups, but the Second Helvetic was written by one man, Heinrich Bullinger, in 1566. Bullinger was a friend of Ulrich Zwingli and corresponded with Luther and Calvin. The Confession takes on a pastoral tone.

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

ONE: What is church?

ALL: The Church is an assembly of the faithful called or gathered out of the world; a communion, I say, of all saints, namely, of those who truly know and rightly worship and serve the true God in Christ the Savior, by the Word and Holy Spirit, and who by faith are partakers of all benefits which are freely offered through Christ. They are all citizens of the one city, living under the same Lord, under the same laws, and in the same fellowship of all good things. For the apostle calls them “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Eph. 2:19), calling the faithful on earth saints (I Cor. 4:1), who are sanctified by the blood of the Son of God. The article of the Creed, “I believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,” is to be understood wholly as concerning these saints.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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

“Fullness of Grace”
Chancel Choir

arr. James Koerts

† 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

John Hibbard

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“You Are Holy”
(2x)

Prince of Peace

Mount Vernon Side

You are holy;
you are mighty;
you are worthy,
worthy of praise.
I will follow;
I will listen;
I will love you
all of my days.

Johnson Ferry Side

You are holy;
you are mighty;
you are worthy,
worthy of praise.
I will follow;
I will listen;
I will love you
all of my days.

All Together

I will sing to and worship the King who is worthy.
I will love and adore him; I will bow down before him.
I will sing to and worship the King who is worthy.
I will love and adore him; I will bow down before him.
You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for you.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

“Festive Voluntary on ‘Lasst Uns Erfreuen’”

by Phil Lehenbauer

Leading Today's Worship Service
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Jill Hudson, Interim Music Director
Roger Scanlan, Choral Conductor
Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care
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



Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

MVPC Announcements....

Save the Date!
70th Anniversary Service
May 19, 2024



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:

Sermon Series: Reaching Out to ...



January 21 "Share", Matthew 25:31-46, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

January 23 Taizé Service, 7pm in the Sanctuary

January 28 "Serve", 1 Corinthians 18, Ordination/Installation of Elders, Rev. Barrett Abernethy,



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 for a casual picture of you and your family. No purchase required!



Senior Adults are going to Fernbank Museum on Sunday, Jan. 28 after worship. Cost is \$20.95. We will stop for an early dinner at Louisiana Bistreaux in Decatur. Please sign up in the Narthex.



Men's Breakfast: Next Sunday, January 21 at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited!



Small Groups: Signups begin today in the Narthex. There are several options that begin January 28. All are invited!

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

January 14, 2024



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

Giving



Our **January Communion Offering** is for the Community Assistance Center. CAC provides basic needs assistance for Dunwoody and Sandy Springs neighbors to prevent homelessness and hunger while promoting self-sufficiency and empowering them to thrive. Originally called the Community Action Center, CAC was started in 1987 in our Gailey Hall by five congregations including MVPC. Now the organization has four locations.



Presbyterian Women: All women are welcome to join any of these PW activities! The New Year's Luncheon is today in Fellowship Hall after the worship service. It is in combination with Circle of Grace and Young Adults. Jill Felts, a former member, will speak on *Realizing Your Life's Blueprint*. Looking forward to seeing all of you with reservations.



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: New year, new start but old habits and outdated plans for changing a bad situation? Please get involved with our Stephen Ministry to get new perspective, clarification of goals, new resources, and a partner with whom to travel difficult times. Please contact a pastor or Pat Barte, 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: Anne Baynham, Susan Doyle, Eliana, Allison Eustis, Fay Hendricks, Megan Kendall, 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: 1/7/24 Worship - 80, Online - 26

Dates for your calendar:

Friday, Feb. 2	8am tour of the lower campus with Head of School, Kristy Lundstrom (<i>RSVP with church office</i>)
Sunday, Feb. 4	Guest Preacher, Dr. William Yoo of Columbia Seminary, luncheon to follow in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Feb. 11	2pm Recital by Ryan Sawyer
Wednesday, Feb. 14	Pancake Supper & Ash Wednesday Service, 5:30pm
Sunday, Feb. 25	Annual Meeting of the church

Financial Update

December 2023 FINAL	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 37,736	\$ 459,672	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 38,220	\$ 113,215	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 1,115	\$ 8,910	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 77,071	\$ 581,797	\$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