



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY  
JANUARY 28, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Today we conclude our sermon series by focusing on what it means to **serve**. This is a great day to celebrate service as we will ordain and install new church officers as they prepare to serve God's church.

**GATHERING**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“Sanctuary”**

**SANCTUARY**

Mike & Kathy Havey, Guitarist & Soloist

**WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Today, we are reminded that we must reach out to *serve*.

**ALL: As followers of Jesus Christ remind us that service should be centered in Christ.**

ONE: Let our worship of you, God, look always to you, so that the wisdom we impart beyond these walls comes from you.

**ALL: Yes, may all who hear our call to welcome, worship, share, and serve, know that within these words is the inherent call to trust in God.**

ONE: Let us begin this call by welcoming those we elected to serve you.

**ALL: Let them be stewards of this trust in you, and let them be led by the wisdom with which we worship this day and all days. Let us all be disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord!**

† **MORNING SONG #434 “Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”**

**KINGSFOLD**

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,  
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race  
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,  
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,  
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,  
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord  
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Gracious God, often we declare, "Here I am, Lord!" Yet, in our haste, we often second-guess ourselves by asking, "Is it I, Lord?" We come here this day, straddling this liminal line of confidence and uncertainty. Sometimes, we are confident we know what is best for the church and that all other wisdom is insufficient. Forgive us in these moments of conceit, and help us to listen to the wisdom of others, for within this collective body resides your Spirit. Other times, however, we wonder if our voice is helpful. In our uncertainty, we shy away from sharing the wisdom which comes from you. Grant us the clarity to speak the truth. The truth that lifts up the body of Christ.

As we live into the call to serve, grant us humility to know when to be silent and the confidence to know when to speak. For the Spirit resides both within us and around us. Through your holiness the light of Christ dwells in the church. May we continue to listen ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #369 (v. 1, 4)

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'M GONNA LIVE

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

*(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward to witness in the Ordination & Installation of Church Officers. Afterwards the children are invited to Children's Church in the Chapel.)*

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

David Barclift, Keith Bumgarner, Meg Christian, Lois Johnson

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Apostles' Creed)*

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.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

In 1954, MVPC's first Session consisted of 5 men including Rev. Harold Minor who served as moderator. As of today, the Session consists of 6 (including our pastors) men and 11 women. We give thanks for the service of all the people who have served this church throughout our 70 years of ministry.

## PRAYERS FOR THE ORDAINED & INSTALLED

### † PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)*

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:2

HOMILY

“Serve”

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Confession of 1967)*

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of humanity’s mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals God’s love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

The word Presbyterian comes from the Greek word *Presbyteros*, which means elder. Hence, Presbyterian churches are led by elders like the people we just ordained and installed.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

OFFERTORY

“Here I Am, Lord”  
Choir

HERE I AM, LORD

### † 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

Keith Bumgarner

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*) “The Summons”

KELVINGROVE

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, you summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let them turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Strong Deliverer”

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

Leading Today’s Worship Service

**Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor**

**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor**

**Jill Hudson, Music Director**

**Roger Scanlan, Choral Conductor**

**Chancel Choir of MVPC**

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,  
go to the Visitor’s Table to pick up a visitor bag and a little gift  
and someone will be there to greet you.*

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....

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

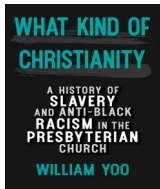


**Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!**

**Visitors & Membership:** Please go to our website: [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org), contact our church office at 404.255.2211, or speak with one of our pastors after the service. Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it down the pew as you greet your neighbor. If you are a visitor, please stop at the **Welcome Table** and pick up a visitor bag.

## Upcoming Services/Events:

### Sermon Series: Reaching Out to ...



**February 4**

Guest Preacher Dr. William Yoo, Luncheon and discussion of his book *What Kind of Christianity..* (see insert) to follow in Fellowship Hall

**February 11**

*"Transfiguration"*, Mark9:2-9, Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
We will burn the palms to conclude this service in preparation for Ash Wednesday.



**New Directory:** This is the LAST DAY to stay after worship to get your picture! No purchase required!



**Lunch Bunch:** Please join Isaac after worship for lunch TODAY, Jan. 28 at City BBQ.



**Small Groups:** It's not too late! The signups are in the Narthex. There are several options that begin TODAY, January 28. All are invited!



**Lenten Devotional:** During Lent our Sermon Series will be *The Crosses of Mount Vernon*. In coordination with this series, we will do a daily Lenten Devotional that focuses on a picture of a cross. To help us, we hope you will: 1) send us pictures of crosses, and 2) write what the cross image means to you. Keep it to 3-5 sentences. This devotional will go out each weekday at noon on social media and email. If you are not on our email list, contact the church office to be added.



**Senior Adults** trip to Fernbank today has been **CANCELLED**.

**January 28, 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 PW activities! Save the date! The Presbyterian Women's Mission Lunch will be on **February 11** in the Kirk Center following the worship service. Andrea Brantley, CEO of Family Promise, will speak to us about the good work that the agency is doing in the community. Lunch will be provided.



**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:** If you are grieving way too long, if you have lost a job or are needing a life change, if you are wrestling with a chronic disease, if you are anxious about a move, if you are feeling lonely and isolated, if you are not managing well with an empty nest, if you are an exhausted caregiver, if you are at mid-life and feel aimless, if you are not dealing well with a new diagnosis, or have a temporary really hard issue in your life, Stephen Ministry can help! We can provide a safe haven for you to vent and discuss your angst in a confidential setting and be fully heard, receive encouragement and companionship, obtain resources, and clarify goals. Please contact a pastor or Pat Barte, Stephen Leader.



**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:** Anne Baynham, Susan Doyle, Eliana, Allison Eustis, Bruce Hagenau, Fay Hendricks, Patricia Hibbard, 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:** 1/21/24      Worship - 92, Online - 16

**Dates for your calendar:**

- Saturday, Feb. 10** Eleanor Brazell Memorial, 10am
- Sunday, Feb. 11** 2pm Recital by Ryan Sawyer
- Wednesday, Feb. 14** Pancake Supper & Ash Wednesday Service, 5:30pm
- Sunday, Feb. 18** First Sunday of Lent, Sermon Series: The Crosses of Mount Vernon
- Sunday, Feb. 25** Annual Meeting of the church following worship

**Financial Update**

*(2024 numbers will be released following approval of our new budget later this month.)*

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 77,071</b>	<b>\$ 581,797</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)