



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 7, 2024 + 10:30 AM  
*Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.*

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

This month we focus on the four qualities we profess to live out here at MVPC. Today we ask the question, what does it mean to be a welcoming church?

**GATHERING**

**RINGING THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“Holy Spirit You Are Welcome Here”**

Francesca Battistelli

Emi Lutz, Guitar

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We gather at these waters, where John the Baptist proclaimed,

**ALL: “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me.”**

ONE: We gather at these waters,

**ALL: Where Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit.**

ONE: We gather at these waters and hear the voice of the Lord,

**ALL: “You are my Beloved Son. With you I am well pleased.” Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG** (*see insert*)

**“Let Us Build a House”**

All Are Welcome

(*v. 1, 3, 5*)

**Choir**

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

**Refrain**

All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

**Congregation**

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;  
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (*refrain*)

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace:  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (*refrain*)

Written in 1994 by Marty Haugen, this song exemplifies MVPC's call to be a place of welcome. This house (sanctuary) should be a vessel for love, peace, kindness, and other qualities that demonstrate how all are welcome in this place.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of all mercy, in our baptisms you have marked us as your own; you have given us a new identity and made us part of the Body of Christ. In doing so, you have called us to rise to new life and to live together in community. However, we have not been faithful to your call. We confess that we have forged our own identity and held onto our own priorities. We confess that we have failed to welcome others, broken bonds with our brothers and sisters, and served ourselves more than you. Forgive us, we pray, for the sake of Christ, our Savior ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Wade in the Water”

WADE IN THE WATER

*Refrain*

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, wade in the water,  
God’s gonna trouble the water. (2x)

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Abernethy & Shari Freeman

*(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward for storytelling and prayer.)*

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

THE 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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

... Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?... I do.

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? **I will, with God’s help.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

ASPERSION

*(The children are invited to Children’s Church in the Chapel.)*

† 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.)*

On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday we are reminded of how God’s grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9). Thus, even if you don’t remember your baptism, the important thing to remember is that you are baptized. If you are not baptized, but would like to learn more about this sacrament, please speak with a pastor following worship.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:4-11

HOMILY

“Welcome”

RESPONSE

OFFERTORY

“For Everyone Born”

FOR EVERYONE BORN

† 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

Lois Johnson

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Shari Freeman

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(The congregation is invited to follow the choir to receive communion.  
If you prefer to remain seated, an usher will bring communion to you.)*

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

LET US BREAK BREAD

Let us break bread together on our knees; Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #356

**“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

**“Prelude in C Major”**

J. S. Bach

Leading Today's Worship Service  
**Rev. Barrett Abernethy**, Senior 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



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. 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 ...



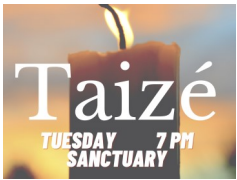
- January 14** "Worship", Luke 24:13-35, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
- January 21** "Share", Matthew 25:31-46, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



**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 beginning next Sunday, Jan. 7 for a casual picture of you and your family. No purchase required!



**Presbyterian Women:** All women are welcome to join any of these PW activities! Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, January 14, 2024**, right after the worship service, in Fellowship Hall 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*. We will be taking reservations today, January 7, in the Narthex. The cost is \$20. You can also contact Joan Rownd. **DEADLINE: Tuesday, January 9.**



**Taizé Service:** Please come to our next service on Tuesday, January 23 at 7pm in the Sanctuary!

**Welcome:** Please welcome our Interim Music Director, Jill Hudson! Jill is a member of our sister congregation St. Luke's Presbyterian Church and recently had a child graduate from the Mount Vernon School.

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

**January 7, 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.



**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 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](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.



**Prayer Concerns:** 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.

<b>Attendance:</b> 12/31/23	Worship	73
	Online	23

**Dates for your calendar:**

Sunday, Jan. 28	Ordination/Installation of new church officers
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
Sunday, Feb. 25	Annual Meeting of the church

**Financial Update**

December 28-31	Actual	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 5,147	\$ 459,671	\$471,275
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 8,227	\$ 103,214	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 67	\$ 8,909	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,441</b>	<b>\$ 571,794</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)