



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
FEBRUARY 11, 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

“I Stand Amazed”

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

Mike & Kathy Havey, Musicians

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We have seen the light of God;

ALL: **On high mountains of celebration.**

ONE: We have seen the light of God;

ALL: **In the depths of despair.**

ONE: We have seen the light of God;

ALL: **With a helping hand offered to someone in need.**

ONE: We have seen the light of God;

ALL: **As we have gathered together today. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #263**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
’Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

The prefix "trans" is littered throughout the liturgy this Sunday. It comes from Latin and literally means "across", "beyond", or "on the other side of". This Sunday invites us to imagine a new faith, one that takes us beyond where we currently are.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of the Mountain, we celebrate your transfiguration, yet resist transformation in our own lives. We witness your dazzling image, yet fail to be your witness to the community around us. We are transfixed by your power, yet fail to use the power you have entrusted to us. Forgive us, God, when we linger too long on the mountain top, enthralled with the glory that flows through you, yet fail to listen to your voice leading and guiding us. Shake us from our contentment, and send us forward endowed with your strength and committed to your mission ... (*silent confession*) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE #464 (v. 1) "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

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

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

SCRIPTURES

Mark 9:2-9

HOMILY

"Transformed & Transfigured"

Did you know that some scholars think the Transfiguration story originated as a resurrection appearance of Jesus? Do you find similarities between this one as the Easter story?

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Confession of 1967 inclusive language text 9.21-9.23)*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace. The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

OFFERTORY

"Be Still"

Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir

† 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

Sujay Galen

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion.
If you prefer to remain seated, an elder will bring communion to you.)*

COMMUNION HYMN

“In Remembrance of Me”

Buryl Red

In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine.

In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God’s own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor.

In remembrance of me, open the door and let your neighbors in, let them in.

Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and remember too,
that this is my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love.

In remembrance of me, don’t look above, but in your heart, look for God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Abernethy

*(During the final hymn, please follow Isaac and Shari out to the courtyard
as we burn the palms.)*

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL *(see insert)* “Shine, Jesus Shine” SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

BURNING OF THE PALMS *(see insert)*

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE *(see insert)* “Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes”

Burning of the Palms is an annual tradition (here’s hoping we don’t have rain) where we burn the palms from last year’s Palm Sunday service. We will use the ashen remains as we begin the Lent season with Ash Wednesday.

Leading Today’s Worship Service
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Jill Hudson, Music Director
Roger Scanlan, Choral Conductor
Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care
Chancel Choir of MVPC
Mike & Kathy Havey, Guitar & Soloist

*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
For this service we need pictures;
please bring/donate any you have
to the church!



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. 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:

Lenten Sermon Series: The Crosses of Mount Vernon



- February 14** Ash Wednesday, Pancakes - 5:30pm, Worship - 6:30pm
- February 18** "Latin Cross", John 3:1-8, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
- February 25** "Presbyterian Cross", 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Annual Meeting following worship
- February 27** Taizé, 7pm



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.



Pancakes & Ashes: Join us this Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for pancakes followed by a short worship service in the sanctuary and the imposition of ashes.



Presbyterian Women: The Presbyterian Women's Mission Lunch is today, Sunday, 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 agency is doing in the community. Lunch will be provided.

February 11, 2024



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

Giving



Our **February Communion Offering** is for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Clifton Sanctuary Ministry provides a transformational experience for homeless men through comprehensive life skills training, purposeful and assertive case management, collaborative community partnerships, and dedicated volunteers. Clifton is a Presbyterian-affiliated ministry and is the oldest house-of-worship shelter in Atlanta, operating 35 days a year. In addition to preparing and serving dinner each 3rd Sunday of the month, MVPC provides financial support and donation (sandwiches/sack lunches, gently used clothing, and paper products/cleaning supplies) throughout the year.



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 or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

Prayer Concerns: Eliana, Allison Eustis, Bruce Hagenau, Patricia Hibbard, Megan Kendall, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Meredith Nash, Carter Ramsey, Maeve Ross, Elizabeth(Elo) Small, Isabelle Vannucci, Gail Williams, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Attendance: 2/4 Worship - 94 Online - 22

Dates for your calendar:

March 24	Palm Sunday, Luncheon & Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30am
March 25-27	Holy Week Devotions with lunch, 12 noon
March 28	Mauudy Thursday and Agape Meal, 6:30pm
March 29	Good Friday Devotional with lunch, 12 noon
March 31	Easter Sunrise 7am, Worship Service, 10:30am

Financial Update

February 1-7	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 4,110	\$ 51,527	\$471,275
2024 Prepaid Pledges	\$ 0	\$ 41,445	\$ 41,445
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 520	\$ 1,770	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 82	\$ 439	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 4,712	\$ 95,181	\$578,000

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to debbie@mvpchurch.org