



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2024 • 10:30 AM**

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

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

Each Sunday in Lent we will focus on a particular cross found on this campus. Today's focus, the Latin Cross, hangs from our Sanctuary ceiling and has been re-made throughout the campus: in the courtyard, the Kirk Center, and the Chapel.

**GATHERING**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“Power of the Cross”**  
Emi Lutz, Guitar

Shelly E. Johnson

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: The season of Lent calls us to look to the cross.

ALL: **Yes! Let us look at the crosses we find here at Mount Vernon.**

ONE: For each cross, through its shape and construction, bears witness to deep meaning.

ALL: **Today, let us look up to the Latin Cross that stands above us in this sanctuary.**

ONE: Yes! Its location inspires us to consider what Jesus meant when he told Nicodemus that we must be born from above.

ALL: **Christ, we can't wait to see what your cross will teach us this Lent! Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #371**

**“Lift High the Cross”**

**CRUCIFER**

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *(refrain)*

Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. *(refrain)*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
Your death has brought us life eternally. *(refrain)*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory. *(refrain)*

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Sacrificial Lamb, this morning we look up and see the universal symbol for the pain you endured and the love you showed for all your people. Yet all too often we forget to see what is above us, and we focus on worldly problems with worldly solutions. This morning remind us as you reminded Nicodemus that we are born from above. Let us respond to the sin and brokenness of this world, not in worldly ways that perpetuate the cycle of sin, but rather let us claim solutions that come from you. You show us that life can overcome death, that what is broken can be mended, and that sin can be forgiven. Forgive us for not looking up, and inspire us to look for your truth rather than keeping our head down in search of our own. In your holy name, we pray ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH

Lord, I lift your name on high;  
Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life;  
I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay;  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift your name on high.

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

John 3:1-8

HOMILY

“The Crosses of Mount Vernon: Latin Cross”

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language 9.08*)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

### 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

“It is Well With My Soul”  
Chancel Choir

arr. 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

Sam McClurg

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #101

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Written by  
Isaac Watts  
and published  
in 1707, this  
hymn was  
originally  
intended to be  
sung during  
communion.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

“To God Be The Glory”

arr. James Koerts

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  
**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.*

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](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:

### Lenten Sermon Series: The Crosses of Mount Vernon



- February 25** "Presbyterian Cross", 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Annual Meeting following worship
- February 27** Taizé, 7pm
- March 3** "Sanctuary Cross; Communion Table Cross", 1 Corinthians 11:23-32, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



**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.



**Committees & Coffee** will meet next Sunday, Feb. 25 after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to find out more about the various committees at MVPC!

**Lunch Bunch** is cancelled for this month & Easter Sunday but will resume in April!



**Presbyterian Women:** We enjoyed the February mission program and lunch. Andrea Brantley spoke with us about the wonderful work that Family Promise is doing in the community. On March 12 the **Day Circle** will meet and study Lesson 8: *Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship* in the Horizons Bible Study. The **Book Circle** will meet on March 8 and review *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge.

**February 18, 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:** Winter weather's ups and downs are a mirror of humans in turmoil. We get a few days of delight between cold, rainy days but the general trend is toward more cold and gray. Humans in distress get uneventful and stressful days between really low days but the future seems uncertain and, generally, not hopeful. If you need new perspective, clarity on your situation, resources for change or moving forward, while gaining a companion to walk with you through the bleak days, contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or one of our ministers to get connected to our Stephen Ministry.



**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:** Bill Barron, Eliana, 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:** 2/11    Worship - 98                      Online - 14

**Dates for your calendar:**

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

**Financial Update**

<b>February 8-14</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 12,865	\$ 64,392	\$471,275
2024 Prepaid Pledges	\$ 0	\$ 41,445	\$ 41,445
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 1,770	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 50	\$ 489	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,915</b>	<b>\$108,096</b>	<b>\$578,000</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)