



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  
FEBRUARY 25, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

This cross is actually called the Presbyterian Seal, and was rendered by a committee in 1985 following the 1983 reunion of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches. It is richly theological and was meant to be a "mini" confession of faith.

**GATHERING**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**"In Christ Alone"**

Emi Lutz & Anthony Menardi, Soloists

Keith Getty &

Stuart Townend

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Leslie Prince

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: God arranges the members of the body, each one of them, as God chooses.

**ALL: God has arranged a solid unity through a beautiful array of diversity.**

ONE: Through the One Spirit we share in God's purposes for this community.

**ALL: And we celebrate everyone who comes alongside us.**

ONE: Through a variety of skills, identities, and backgrounds,

**ALL: We experience life in community and in Christ. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG** (*see insert*)

**"Here in This Place"**

**GATHER US IN**

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:  
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Forgiveness and Grace, there is no way that we can tell another person, “I have no need of you.” But we do.

We expect others to act and speak the way we do, effectively telling them that we have no need of them the way they are.

We expect those around us to think and feel at the speed that we do, effectively telling them that we have no need of them the way they are.

We expect those around us to follow our visions for the future, effectively telling them that we have no need of them the way they are.

Forgive us God, for dismissing others who are not like us. We have a need for everyone to build up the body of Christ in your image. Guide us to unity in you through the diversity around us ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #379 (v.1) “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;

All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac 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

*(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 12:12-27

HOMILY

“The Crosses of Mount Vernon: Presbyterian Cross”

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

The Brief Statement, much like the Seal of the PCUSA, was also an outgrowth of the reunion of the Southern and Northern Churches.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Shari Freeman

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

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”  
Chancel Choir

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

### † 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

Amy Kiley

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #358

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

BARONITA

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons, as in our daily life  
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
To love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let Your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
In living situations to do the truth in love;  
To practice Your acceptance until we know by heart  
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,  
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

arr. James Koerts

ANNUAL MEETING

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.*

Each year  
MVPC is  
required to  
hold an  
Annual  
Meeting.  
During this  
meeting we  
recap the  
previous  
year, vote  
on certain  
offices of  
the church,  
and  
approve  
the terms  
of call for  
our pastors.

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!**

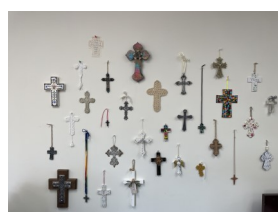
**Visitors & Membership:** Please go to our website: [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org), contact our church office at 404.255.2211, or speak with one of our pastors after the service. Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it down the pew as you greet your neighbor. If you are a visitor, please stop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

## Upcoming Services/Events:

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



- February 27** Taizé, 7pm
- March 3** "Sanctuary Cross; Communion Table Cross", 1 Corinthians 11:23-32, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
- March 10** "Celtic Cross", Revelation 21:1-7, Shari Freeman



**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 TODAY after worship & the Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us to find out more about the various committees at MVPC!



**Senior Adults** are going to lunch on March 3! Sign up in the Narthex.



**Family Promise:** MVPC hosts Family Promise March 10-16. Volunteer opportunities are open for dinner hosts, dinner providers, overnight hosts, and gift card donations. SignUp Genius links will be in the weekly Happenings and are now posted on the church website.

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

**February 25, 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.



**Presbyterian Women:** On March 12 the **Day Circle** will meet at 10am in the Session Room and study Lesson 8: *Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship* in the Horizons Bible Study. The **Book Circle** will meet on March 8 at 10am in the Session Room and review *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. All women are invited to come to our PW events!



**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:** Your Stephen Ministry team is available to help you through hard times. "Hard times" are defined by whatever it is that temporarily overwhelms you and upsets you. It may not be what is considered a life-shattering event, but it is something that is disruptive, unsettling, and highly personal to you. Please contact Pat Barte, Stephen Leader, or a pastor, to be connected to a partner to walk through it with you.



**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, Megan Kendall, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Meredith Nash, Maeve Ross, Isabelle Vannucci, Gail Williams, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

**Attendance:** 2/18    Worship - 88                      Online - 23

**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**

February 15-22	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 1,895	\$ 66,287	\$471,275
2024 Prepaid Pledges	\$ 0	\$ 41,445	\$ 41,445
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 500	\$ 2,270	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 44	\$ 533	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,439</b>	<b>\$110,535</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)