



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 4, 2024 • 10:30 AM
Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

† For those who are able, please stand.

GATHERING

RINGING THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Blest Are They”

BLEST ARE THEY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Today we are called to ask, “What kind of Christianity do we want?”

ALL: **Help us, God of justice, to not be ashamed of the gospel and lead us to live by faith.**

ONE: How are we called to respond to this question today?

ALL: **By hearing the uncomfortable truth of anti-black racism within the walls of the Presbyterian faith.**

ONE: How are we called to live this truth out tomorrow?

ALL: **By proclaiming the gospel with our feet and our hearts, our “soul and body,” so that the sins of the past can point us to justice now and in the future. Let us worship God!**

In 1897, Black Presbyterian Pastor, Matthew Anderson, wrote he was a Presbyterian because we believe our call is to enact ministries that care for the whole person. (page 129 of *What Kind of Christianity.*)

† MORNING SONG #332

“Live Into Hope”

TRURO

The writer of this hymn, Jane Parker Huber, worked for women's equality in the Presbyterian Church throughout her life. This mission is reflected in the lyrics, but also speaks to the hopes of all marginalized peoples.

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of the Struggle, we come before you this day because we want to forget. Forget that we, Presbyterians, benefitted from a racial caste system that placed white people as superior to black people. Yet history reveals that this happened and that we caused pain and suffering for countless people created in your image. That is why we must not forget these sins, but rather acknowledge them, so in both our past and present we can confess and learn from them. Help us to hear the stories we have often shoved to the side so we can reinvigorate the Christian story in our hearts and minds. For when we do, we can carry out the actions that promote justice and reconciliation, and inspire the world to look for the new heaven and the new earth. Grant us this wisdom. Grant us this courage. ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #324 (v. 1)

“Open my Eyes That I May See”

OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Shari Freeman

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

Dr. William Yoo

SCRIPTURES

Amos 5:18-24 & Matthew 5:6

HOMILY

“A History of Those Who are Hungry & Thirsty for Righteousness”

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #280

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’d first begun.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Joseph T. Jones

(Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch and a presentation from Dr. Yoo!)

Leading Today’s Worship Service

Dr. William Yoo, Columbia Theological Seminary Professor

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Jill Hudson, Music Director

Roger Scanlan, Choral Conductor

Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care

Emi Lutz, Guitar

Chancel Choir of MVPC

We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:

Sermon Series: Reaching Out to ...



- February 11** “*Transfiguration*”, Mark 9: 2-9, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
We will burn the palms to conclude this service in preparation for Ash Wednesday.
- February 14** Ash Wednesday, Pancakes - 5:30pm, Worship - 6:30pm
- February 18** “*Latin Cross*”, John 3:1-8, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



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 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: 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.

February 4, 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 pbarte@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, and Zambia.

Attendance: 1/28/24 Worship - 106 Online - 36

Dates for your calendar:

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

Financial Update

January 1-31, 2024	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 45,569	\$ 45,569	\$471,275
2024 Prepaid Pledges	\$ 41,445	\$ 41,445	\$ 41,445
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 357	\$ 357	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 87,971	\$ 87,971	\$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