



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**MARCH 10, 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**

**“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”**  
Mike & Kathy Havey

John Newton  
Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Shari Freeman

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** We see the Celtic Cross around our campus: in the narthex, on our buildings.

**ALL:** **This cross originated in the early middle ages and came with the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians of yesteryear.**

**ONE:** We know it's a cross, but it looks different.

**ALL:** **The nimbus, or circle surrounding the cross, represents the eternal light of Christ.**

**ONE:** May God lead us to the cross this day to proclaim that through Christ there is a new heaven and a new earth.

**ALL:** **Let us worship the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Eternal Light of Christ.**

The Celtic Cross is often associated with the large and ornately carved stone crosses (called high crosses) in Ireland and Scotland.

† **MORNING SONG #339**

**“Be Thou My Vision”**

SLANE

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art -  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## † PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

God of Light, as we traverse these middle Lenten days we come before you longing to see beyond the fog and the barrenness. Today, we find ourselves exhausted because we long to see the light of spring shining forth. We believe that we are building up the body of Christ, but too often we fall prey to dim divisions that cloud our minds and harden our hearts. Help us look to the cross that reveals light, for this is a cross that points us to the hope of a new heaven and a new earth. We long for this light and life to last for eternity so that divisions may dissipate. May that lead us to remain steadfast in living out the Lenten call to turn toward you, for when we do we can see the seeds of spring burst forth through the fog and bear witness to this hope ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

## † ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

## † RESPONSE #293 (v. 2)

**“This Is My Father’s World”**

TERRA BEATA

This is my Father’s world:  
Oh, let me ne’er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so  
strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father’s world:  
The battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heaven be one.

Presbyterian  
Minister  
Maltbie  
Babcock wrote  
this hymn at  
the beginning  
of the 20th  
century. It was  
published  
after his death  
in 1901.

## CHILDREN’S MOMENT

*(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

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-7

HOMILY

*“The Crosses of Mount Vernon: Celtic Cross”*

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Scots Confession*)

We confess:

That our Lord Jesus offered himself a voluntary sacrifice unto his Father for us, that he suffered contradiction of sinners, that he was wounded and plagued for our transgressions, that he, the clean innocent Lamb of God, was condemned in the presence of an earthly judge, that we should be absolved before the judgment seat of our God; that he suffered not only the cruel death of the cross, which was accursed by the sentence of God; but also that he suffered for a season the wrath of his Father which sinners had deserved. But yet we avow that he remained the only, well beloved, and blessed Son of his Father even in the midst of his anguish and torment which he suffered in body and soul to make full atonement for the sins of his people. From this we confess and avow that there remains no other sacrifice for sin; if any affirm so, we do not hesitate to say that they are blasphemers against Christ's death and the everlasting atonement thereby purchased for us. Amen.

The Scots Confession, written in 1560, was the first reformed confession of faith for the Protestant Church in Scotland.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

### OFFERTORY

“Ave Verum”  
Chancel Choir

W.A. Mozart

#### Latin

Ave verum corpus, natum  
de Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum  
in cruce pro homine  
cuius latus perforatum  
fluxit aqua et sanguine:  
esto nobis prægustatum  
in mortis examine.

#### English

Hail, true Body, born  
of the Virgin Mary,  
truly suffered, sacrificed  
on the cross for mankind,  
from whose pierced side  
flowed water and blood:  
Be for us a foretaste (of the Heavenly banquet)  
In the trial of death

### † HYMN OF PRAISE #220 “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” OLD HUNDREDTH

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;  
Come ye before Him and rejoice.  
O enter then His gates with praise;  
Approach with joy His courts unto;  
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

### † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Charlie Gray

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*)

#### “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

#### *Refrain*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. (*refrain*)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (*refrain*)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
Who is turning the world around. (*refrain*)

### † BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

#### “Simple Gifts”

arr. Wilbur Held

Leading Today’s Worship Service  
**Shari Freeman**, Director of Spiritual Care  
**Jill Hudson**, Music Director  
**Roger Scanlan**, Choral Conductor  
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](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

- March 17** "Calvary Cross", 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Shari Freeman
- March 24** Palm Sunday, "Between the Hedges", John 12:12-19, Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Lunch & Egg Hunt

See the backside for the Holy Week/Easter schedule.

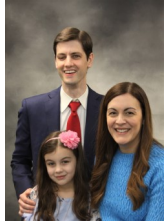


**Maundy Thursday:** Sign up for the Agape Meal in the Narthex or use the SignUp Genius on our website at [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org).



**Senior Adult Movie Matinee:** Saturday, March 16 @ 1pm in the Session Room, *Waking Ned Devine*, sign up in the Narthex

**Senior Adult Day Trip:** Smith Gilbert Gardens, Saturday, March 23, sign up in the Narthex.



**Pictorial Directory:** last chance to get your picture taken for the directory is after worship on Easter Sunday, March 31.

**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.



**March 10, 2024**



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

Giving



**The March Communion Offering** is for the Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS) Student Food Pantry. Many CTS students, especially international students, do not have vehicles for easy transportation, so the food pantry is a great help. The food pantry is sponsored by the seminary, the Columbia Friendship Circle, and local congregations. For more information about CTS Student Life, please visit <https://www.columbiacurrent.com/>



**Presbyterian Women:** The **Day Circle** will meet this Tuesday, March 12, 10:00 in the Session Room, and study Lesson 8: *Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship* in the Horizons Bible Study. 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:** Remember to suggest our Stephen Ministry to fellow members and to neighbors in turmoil. We also "befriend" homebound members who could use a regular check-in. As the body of Christ, we want to share God's love within and beyond our campus and offer confidential, skilled companionship for the hard times and temporary "bumps in the road". Call Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor 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:** Bill Barron, Eliana, Bruce Hagenau, Megan Kendall, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Maeve Ross, Greg Slingerland, Isabelle Vannucci, Allen Wade, Gail Williams, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

**Christian Sympathy** to the friends and family of Dale Turner who died in August 2023. Funeral will take place at 1pm Saturday, March 16 at the Westview Cemetery Chapel.

**Attendance:** 3/3    Worship - 106    Online - 24

**Dates for your calendar:**

March 25-27	Holy Week Devotions with lunch, 12 noon
March 28	Maundy Thursday Agape Meal, 6:30pm
March 29	Good Friday Devotional with lunch, 12 noon
March 31	Outdoor Easter Sunrise Service, 7am; Sanctuary Worship Service, 10:30am
April 7	Holy Humor Sunday, 10:30am

**Financial Update**

February 1-29	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 49,773	\$136,834	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 4,220	\$ 5,470	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 640	\$ 997	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 54,633</b>	<b>\$143,301</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)