



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 17, 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

“Step by Step”

David Strasser

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Iota, Eta, Sigma.

ALL: These three letters are at the center of our Calvary cross that sits at the heart of our communion table.

ONE: Why are these letters imprinted upon the cross?

ALL: They are the first three letters of Jesus’s name in Greek, who gave his life on the cross for us.

ONE: Why did Jesus walk up Calvary - the name of the hill where he was crucified - for us?

ALL: Because as the three steps at the base of this cross represent, he did it to reveal faith, hope, and the greatest of these, love.

ONE: Grant us the conviction by your selfless grace to show faith, hope, and love to all!

ALL: Let us worship God!

The symbol with the letters IHS at the center of the brass cross on the communion table is a Christogram, an abbreviation of the name of Christ.

† **MORNING SONG #376**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
 Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!
 Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
 Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
 Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest;
 Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
 End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
 Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
 Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
 Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
 Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
 Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
 Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Christ who meets us on the hill, we come before you once again this season to express our gratitude for your selfless sacrifice. Though we often see the cross as the place where salvation was given, on this day we take the steps of Calvary to also witness to faith, hope, and love.

We long to witness a faith that expresses the sacrifice found on the cross, but does not rest at the cross. Give us a faith that is boundless. One that moves us through the depths of death on Friday, through the fear of uncertainty on Saturday, and to the glorious resurrection of Sunday.

We long to witness a hope that expresses the sacrifice found on the cross, but does not rest at the cross. A hope that overcomes our sins and our failings. We know you continue to pray for us and plead, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." You're right. Give us the hope to turn to you, again and again, so that we can be fully reconciled to your vision.

We long to witness a love that expresses the sacrifice found on the cross, but does not rest at the cross. A love that is greater than all the forms of hate and injustice. A love that is the paramount aspect of our faith and our hope; the pinnacle of who we are as individuals and as a body devoted to you, Jesus Christ.

We come to the hill on this day, Lamb of God, take away our sins, and lead us forth to share the truth of Calvary far beyond ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #92

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

This hymn, written by Elizabeth Clephane, was originally a poem. It was first published in 1872 in a Scottish Presbyterian magazine, three years after her death.

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

(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

HOMILY

"The Crosses of Mount Vernon: Calvary Cross"

RESPONSE

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

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humanity. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work. Amen.

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

"What Love is This?"
Chancel Choir

Susan Naus Dengler &
Lee Dengler

† 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

Beppie Lever

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #363

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

SOJOURNER

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

The spiritual “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” is simultaneously several different things: a song of lament, a song of personal invitation, and a statement of assurance that Jesus walks alongside those who suffer.

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary in C Major”

J.S. Bach

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

*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



Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

mvpchurch.org

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

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|-----------------|--|
| March 24 | Palm Sunday, <i>"Between the Hedges"</i> , John 12:12-19, Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Lunch & Egg Hunt |
| March 28 | Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm, Agape Meal 6:30pm |
| March 31 | Sunrise Service 7:00am, Worship 10:30am |

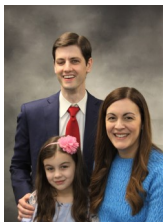
See the backside for the Holy Week/Easter schedule.



Maundy Thursday: Sign up for the Agape Meal in the Narthex or use the SignUp Genius on our website at mvpchurch.org.



Senior Adult Day Trip: Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw, **next Saturday, March 23**. For more information, check out the Senior table in the Narthex and sign up. United by woodland paths, the Gardens consist of separate groupings with individual elements of fascination. These include the Bonsai Exhibit, Palladino Camellia Garden, tea house and waterfall area, Rose Garden, and Conifer Display.



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



Atlanta Concert Band: "Irish Music at the End of the Rainbow", **TODAY** at 4pm at the Roswell Cultural Arts Center. For more info, pick up the flyer in the Narthex.

March 17, 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 Tuesday, April 9, and study Lesson 5: *A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus* in the Horizons Bible Study. The **Book Circle** will meet Friday, April 12, and review *Stars of Alabama* by Sean Dietrich. 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 is watching 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: No one at our church should feel alone or at a fork in the road without options. There's a caring partner here to walk through this temporary time of peril with you, keeping it confidential and offering clarity, resources, and encouragement. Call Pat Bartee or one of our pastors today to get started with a Stephen Minister.



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: Bill Barron, Eliana, Gloria Gillespie, Bruce Hagenau, Mark Hughes, Megan Kendall, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Maeve Ross, Greg Slingerland, Isabelle Vannucci, Alan Wade, Gail Williams, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Attendance: 3/10 Worship - 92 Online - 27

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

March 1-13	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 19,849	\$156,683	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 900	\$ 6,370	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 132	\$ 1,129	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 20,881	\$164,182	\$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