



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PALM SUNDAY  
MARCH 24, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Hosanna in the context of Judaism and Hebrew language means “save us” and is a cry for divine help. In Christianity and Greek the word also means “save us” but is a cry of praise and recognition of the messianic nature of Jesus Christ as he enters Jerusalem.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #88 *(see insert)*

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”  
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

ALL: **Hosanna in the highest!**

ONE: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow. For he is the life we long for, and his Word sustains us.

ALL: **Hosanna in the highest!**

ONE: He comes setting aside all power, glory, and might. Blessed is the One who ushers in the Kingdom of God.

ALL: **Hosanna in the highest! Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG #89

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

ELLACOMBE

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast,  
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;  
The Lord of earth and heaven ride on in lowly state,  
Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” that ancient song we sing,  
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.  
O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice,  
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice.

Written by Jennette Threlfall in the 19th Century, she imagined through the lyrics that children played a significant role in the Palm Sunday narrative. This imagining may be in part to the fact that Ms. Threlfall was orphaned at a young age but is said to have always had a positive outlook.

## † PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Palm Sunday Jesus, we enjoy waving palm branches in the church today. We easily sing the familiar music and listen to the words helping us to re-enact this holy day.

But, what if you are inviting us to really lay down something of value to acknowledge your arrival? How would we respond if we experienced the danger that accompanies you, or sensed that the authorities were watching us as we worship? What would we make of your posture of humility in light of our hope that you would save the world? How then, Jesus, would we meet you, and what would we spread before you?

Palm Sunday Jesus, help us to see how and where you enter our world today, and what you ask us to lay at your feet, and how we may welcome you in ... (*silent confession*) ... Amen.

## † ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## † RESPONSE

**“Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Choir: Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

ALL: **Hosanna! Hosanna!**

All the people sang their praise to him.

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Came to town upon a donkey’s back;

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Seemed so lowly but he’s Lord in fact.

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Choir: Hosanna! Hear the people say

Hosanna! Save us today.

Hosanna! It’s a faithful song.

Hosanna! Sing it all day long!

## 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

John 12:12-19

HOMILY

“Between the Hedges”

Although present in all four gospels, only John specifically mentions the waving of Palm branches as Jesus enters Jerusalem.

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from Philippians 2:5-11)*

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God; Jesus Christ is Lord!**

### OFFERTORY

#### “Laudamus Te”

Antonio Vivaldi

Rebecca Shipley, Soprano; Nichol Jacobs, Mezzo Soprano

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te.  
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you.

The 'Laudamus Te' comes from Vivaldi's "Gloria". Antonio Vivaldi lived from 1678-1741 and wrote the popular "The Four Seasons". He ranks amongst the greatest composers of the Baroque era.

### † 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

Pat Bartee

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Abernethy  
Rev. Toney-Schmitt  
Shari Freeman

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & 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.**

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(The congregation is invited to follow the choir to receive communion.  
If you prefer to remain seated, an usher will bring communion to you.)*

#### COMMUNION HYMN#513

#### “Let Us Break Bread Together”

#### LET US BREAK BREAD

Let us break bread together on our knees; Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“Shout to the Lord”

Darlene Zschech

My Jesus, my Savior,  
Lord there is none like you.  
All of my days, I want to praise,  
The wonders of your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter;  
Tower of refuge and strength.  
Let every breath, all that I am,  
Never cease to worship you!

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing  
power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at  
the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,  
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

† CHORAL BLESSING

“The Lord Bless and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!”

Phil Lehenbauer

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



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

[mvpchurch.org](http://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](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 26** Taizé 7:00pm
- March 28** Maundy Thursday Service Agape Meal 6:30pm
- March 29** Good Friday Devotion & Lunch, 12noon
- March 31** Sunrise Service Outdoor 7:00am, Worship in Sanctuary 10:30am

**See the backside for the Holy Week/Easter schedule.**



**Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, April 7 after worship. Business will pertain to a property agreement between the Church and the City of Sandy Springs.



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



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

**Inquirers Lunch:** Are you new to MVPC? You are invited to the lunch on Sunday, April 14 in the Kirk Center after worship to find out where you can get plugged in or have questions about what we do here.



**Easter Sunday:** Bring your flowers next Sunday to help decorate the cross!

**March 24, 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:** Stephen Ministry is available to any church member or community member needing a companion while they walk a temporary, rocky road. It might be new or extended grief, job loss, empty nest, a new health diagnosis, mild depression, mid-life questioning, moving or another large life change, care-giver angst, fears of dementia, or just something that keeps you awake at night and keeps upsetting you. Please let us help. Call Pat Bartee or one of our pastors to get started.



**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, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Williard Deal, Eliana, Gloria Gillespie, Bruce Hagenau, Mark Hughes, Megan Kendall, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Meredith Nash, Maria Nyunt, Maeve Ross, Greg Slingerland, Isabelle Vannucci, Allen Wade, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Christian Sympathy** to the friends and family of Louise Lord who died March 18.

**Attendance:** 3/17 Worship - 96                      Online - 21

**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 14-21	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 4,364	\$161,047	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 500	\$ 6,870	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 63	\$ 1,192	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,927</b>	<b>\$169,109</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)