



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 3, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

On Sunday October 23, 1966 the church approved plans for the new sanctuary building. The design, by architect Harold Wagoner, emphasized this as a place of "gathering for God's family." The communion table embodies this idea as we come to the place where Christ broke his body for us as a body of Christ.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Let Us Be Bread"

arr. Thomas Porter

Nichol Jacobs, Anthony Menardi, Rebecca Shipley - Soloists

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: On this day we break the bread,

ALL: And we give thanks for Christ's body that surrounds us.

ONE: On this day we lift up the cup of salvation,

ALL: And we call on the name of the Lord.

ONE: On this day we remember and look upon our savior,

ALL: And we proclaim Christ's reign for all eternity. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG #507**

"I Come with Joy"

DOVE OF PEACE

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known: we see and praise Him here,
We see and praise Him here.

Together met, together bound we'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world, we'll live and speak His praise,
We'll live and speak His praise.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Merciful God, you have called us to examine ourselves before joining one another at the communion table.

We confess that true humility eludes us, and we hide our sins and vulnerabilities from ourselves, from others, and from you. You have called us to serve others as Christ has served us.

We confess that we have not followed Christ's example as fully or as often as we should. We hoard our resources and turn away from people in need. You have called us to love one another as you have loved us.

We confess that we do not love so generously. We choose to congregate with those who are like us and exclude those we deem as different from us.

Forgive us, Merciful God, and cleanse us of all our sins; then guide our feet to walk with you always. In Christ's name, we pray ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“You Are My Strength When I Am Weak”

JERNIGAN

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.

When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Shari Freeman

(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 11:23-32

HOMILY

“The Crosses of Mount Vernon: Communion Table Cross”

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the PCUSA Book of Order)*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper offers an abundant feast of theological meaning, including: thanksgiving to God the Father; remembrance of Jesus Christ; invocation of the Holy Spirit; communion in the body of Christ; and a meal of the realm of God. The Reformed tradition understands the Lord's Supper to be a sign of God's covenant. The bread of the Lord's Supper is linked with the bread of Passover and the gift of manna in the wilderness. The Lord's Supper thus connects us with God's saving power and providential care from generation to generation. Like the offering of sacrifices, a sign of Israel's thanksgiving for God's faithfulness, the Lord's Supper is a sacrifice of praise and a sign of our gratitude for God's steadfast love. The Lord's Supper represents God's gracious invitation to an everlasting covenant. The Lord's Supper also reflects our calling to feed others as we have been fed, and offers a foretaste of that heavenly banquet when God will wipe away every tear and swallow up death forever. Amen.

A few paragraphs down from this portion of the Book of Order also states, "The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the underserving who come in faith, repentance, and love."

OFFERTORY

"Offertory"
Chancel Choir

arr. John Ness Beck

† 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

Penny Kiel

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.)*

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.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God 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 (see insert)

"Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"

BEACH SPRING

Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven, was their food forever more.

Refrain

By your body broken for us, by your wine of life out-poured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Loaves were broken, words were spoken in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light. (*refrain*)

Loaves are broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!" (*refrain*)

By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your name to share.
Bread for which the millions hunger, words that tell your love and care. (*refrain*)

These lyrics, written in 2005, speak to the past when Christ fed the 5,000 and the Last Supper while also revealing that the feast continues to this day and into the future. Hence, the feast never ends, for Christ is the beginning and the end!

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Psalm 19"

arr. Benedetto Marcello

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

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!

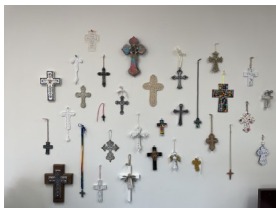
Visitors & Membership: Please go to our website: mvpchurch.org, contact our church office at 404.255.2211, or speak with one of our pastors after the service. Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it down the pew as you greet your neighbor. If you are a visitor, please stop at the **Welcome Table**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

Upcoming Services/Events:



Lenten Sermon Series: The Crosses of Mount Vernon

- March 10** "Celtic Cross", Revelation 21:1-7, Shari Freeman
- 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



Lenten Devotional: During Lent our Sermon Series is *The Crosses of Mount Vernon*. In coordination with this series, we send a Lenten Devotional that focuses on a picture of a cross. This devotional goes out each weekday at 9am on social media and email. If you are not on our email list, contact the church office to be added.



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

Senior Adults are going to lunch at La Madeleine TODAY after worship!
Senior Adult Movie Matinee: Saturday, March 16 @ 1pm in the Session Room, *Waking Ned Divine*, sign up in the Narthex
Senior Adult Day Trip: Smith Gilbert Gardens, Saturday, March 23, 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.

March 3, 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: 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: This time between winter and spring when clothing choices are a challenge and weather is like a roller coaster leave us frustrated, angry, yet longing for spring. When life leaves you in limbo and you feel alone and ineffective and longing for relief, please call Stephen Ministry and let us help! We can walk with you through it, bringing clarity and encouragement as you resolve issues. We serve our community, as well, and like for our members to recommend us to friends and neighbors! 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 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, Gail Williams, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Attendance: 2/25 Worship - 109 Online - 16

Dates for your calendar:

March 24	Palm Sunday, Luncheon & Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30am
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	Easter Sunrise 7am, Worship Service, 10:30am

Financial Update

February 23-28	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 30,898	\$138,630	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 31,400	\$ 33,670	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 464	\$ 997	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 62,762	\$173,297	\$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