



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER

MARCH 31, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

The word Easter derives from the Old English "east" or "ost," which is the direction of both the sunrise and the direction early Christians faced to pray. It did not derive, as you may have seen on social media, from other ancient/pagan religious roots. Easter simply means the dawn of a new day.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

"Eastertide"

"Jesus Paid It All"

Brass Ensemble

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: At Jesus' tomb, women and men found a stone rolled away with clothes lying inside.

ALL: **Some ran to show others, some believed on the spot, and some wept and mourned.**

ONE: But soon there were angels and even Jesus himself declaring:

ALL: **Why are you weeping? The one you seek is here!**

ONE: Share the Good News with everyone in earshot today:

ALL: **Christ is Risen! Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG #123

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!

Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

The Trumpet Fanfare at the beginning of this piece was written by the late MVPC organist, Dr. Dennis G. Stabler, for the inaugural playing of the Trompette en Chamade on Easter Sunday, 1994.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of New Life and Resurrection, we are your children. We long for a full relationship with you, and you long for a full relationship with us. We are drawn to one another. We admit that we are often distracted and confused in our efforts to live alongside you. We don't always see the world through your eyes: we make enemies where you see friends; we make boundaries where you see unity; we make disbelief where you see belief. In all, we can be oblivious to how close you really are. Forgive us, and invite us into a full relationship with you. Share with us the joy of Easter morning as we recognize you and enter into new life ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...Christ is Risen!

ALL: He is Risen indeed!

† RESPONSE #106

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Refrain

Alleluia, Alleluia

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Give praise to His name.

Come, let us praise the living God,

Joyfully sing to our Savior. *(refrain)*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

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

† 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 20:1-18

HOMILY

“*Inspiration*”

A fun exercise; after worship go home and read the four resurrection scenes and see how they are alike, and how they are different.

Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-8
Luke 24:1-12
John 20:1-18

RESPONSE

† HYMN #122

“Thine Is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABEUS

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“The Day of Resurrection”
Chancel Choir & Brass Ensemble

Thomas Matthews

† 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

Ed Spain

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 #464

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o’er us, joining all in heaven’s plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

† CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Hallelujah Chorus”

G.F. Handel

(Please remain in your pew through the Choral Benediction.)

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in Seven”

John Rutter

When Handel completed “Hallelujah” he reportedly told a butler “I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself seated on His throne with His company of angels.”

Leading Today’s Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care
Jill Hudson, Music Director
Roger Scanlan, Choral Conductor
Chancel Choir of MVPC

Brass Ensemble

Paul Bonapfel - Baritone
Stephen Goodwin - Trumpet
John Hibbard - Tuba
Don Howard - Trumpet
Sean Mack - Trombone

*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



mvpchurch.org

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:



April 7

Holy Humor Sunday, "Sunday Funday", Psalm 126,
Rev. Barrett Abernethy

April 14

Children, Youth, Young Adult Sunday, Luke 24:36b-48



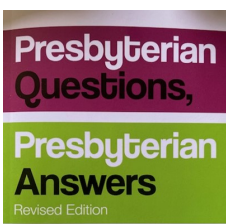
Church Office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, April 1.



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



Pictorial Directory: last chance to get your picture taken for the directory is TODAY after worship.



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.

March 31, 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: Needing someone to talk to who will not presume, judge, belittle or tell another your business? Needing a companion to walk with you through the situation to dry land? Needing someone who can encourage and support you and help you clarify your goals? We are right here on campus. Please contact Stephen Ministry today by calling Pat Bartee or a pastor.



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, 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

Celebration of Life Service for Louise Lord will be Saturday, April 6 at 2pm at Mount Vernon Towers.

Attendance: 3/24 Worship - 123 Online - 21

Dates for your calendar:

- April 21 Columbia Theological President, Dr. Victor Aloyo is leading Sunday School (9:30am) & Worship (10:30am)
- April 28 Earth-Care Sunday Outdoor Service 10:30am
- May 12 Mother's Day Outdoor Service, 10:30am
- May 19 70th Anniversary Service, 9am Fellowship, 10:30am Worship, 11:30am Lunch

Financial Update

March 22-28	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 15,434	\$176,481	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 5,000	\$ 11,870	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 15,110	\$ 16,302	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 35,544	\$204,653	\$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