



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 21, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Columbia Theological Seminary was founded in 1828 in Lexington, GA, but quickly moved to Columbia, SC hence its name. It moved to its present location in Decatur, GA in 1927.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Let My Life Be Worship”
Emi Lutz & Jill Hudson

Jen Johnson
Bethel Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Restore us, O God!

ALL: **Let your face shine with the continued brightness of this Easter season!**

ONE: Restore us, O God!

ALL: **Let your face shine and remind your people that we are called to share the gift of new life in Christ!**

ONE: Restore us, O God!

ALL: **Let your face shine with the wisdom of a shepherd for we are a flock who long to follow you. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #144**

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”

HYFRYDOL

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne!

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone!

Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;

Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by His blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him, When the forty days were o'er,

Shall our hearts forget His promise, “I am with you evermore”?

Alleluia! Bread of angels, Thou on earth our food, our stay.

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to Thee from day to day.

Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,

Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own;

Alleluia! born of Mary, Earth Thy footstool, heaven Thy throne.

Thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh our great High Priest;

Thou on earth both priest and victim in the Eucharistic feast.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Good Shepherd, today you remind us of your selfless nature that will never leave us, always guide us, and will eternally save us. This is why we joyfully sing Alleluia this Easter season. For when we boldly ask the question “Does my life matter?” You answer emphatically, “YES!”

This is why when we lose our way you bring us back into the fold. This is why when we follow the wrong people, you bring us back into the fold. This is why when we feel unworthy to stay with the fold, you remind us that we are always welcome.

Help us, Good Shepherd, in those moments of sinful pride and shame, that as your sheep we are never severed from the love of Christ Jesus. Help us to remember when we stray from you that the light leading toward your path is always shining, revealing to us always and forever that we matter ... *(silent confession)* ... Alleluia! Amen!

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #391 (v. 1,6)

“Take My Life”

HENDON

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Abernethy

*(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

President, Victor Aloyo

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 80:1-7, John 10:11-18

HOMILY

“Does My Life Matter?”

Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo is the 11th President of Columbia Theological Seminary. He is at least the 3rd CTS President to preach here and the first since Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall, who was President of CTS from 2000-2009

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967 9.32 and 9.33, Inclusive Text)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Shari Freeman

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

"On Eagle's Wings" arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Chancel Choir

Originally composed by Michael Joncas, this hymn is based on the words of Psalm 91, Exodus 19, and Matthew 13. Joncas wrote it after learning that his friend's father had died from a heart attack.

† 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

Diane Bumgarner

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #387

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

BRADBURY

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor; early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

† BENEDICTION

President Aloyo

POSTLUDE

“Sinfonia 8”

J.S. Bach

Leading Today's Worship Service

President Victor Aloyo, Columbia Theological Seminary

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

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



mvpchurch.org

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

MVPC Announcements....

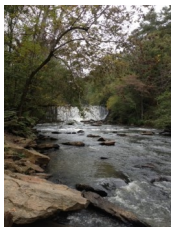
Save the Date!
70th Anniversary Service
May 19, 2024
For this service we need pictures;
please bring/donate any you have
to the church!



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 23** Taizé, 7pm
- April 28** "How To Be Content", Philippians 4:4-13, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Outdoor Service, Earth-Care Sunday
- May 5** History of the Church Hymn Sing, Communion



Senior Adults: On Saturday, May 18 we are going to the Monastery. Details and signups are in the Narthex. Come help with the book sorting for SSEF in Gailey Hall on Sunday, April 28 at 4pm.



Volunteers Needed for our 70th Anniversary on May 19! We will need greeters, gophers, shepherds, set up/cleanup, name tags, parking lot, etc. If you're interested, contact the church office or send an email to debbie@mvpchurch.org.



You are invited to attend Rev. Dr. Alex Moses' installation as pastor of Northwest Presbyterian Church (4300 Northside Dr., NW, Atlanta, 30327) next Sunday, April 28 at 3pm. Alex grew up at MVPC and MVPC member, Charlie Gray, is serving on his installation commission.



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

Giving



The April Communion Offering is for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center. CAC provides basic needs assistance for Dunwoody and Sandy Springs neighbors to prevent homelessness and hunger while promoting self-sufficiency and empowering them to thrive. For more information, please go to www.ourcac.org



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, May 14, and study Lesson 9, *People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples* in the Horizons Bible Study. The **Book Circle** will meet Friday, May 10, and review *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. 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: Why don't you hear more about people who have benefitted from Stephen Ministry? That is because confidentiality is the bedrock upon which the ministry is built and flourishes. Stephen Ministers keep confidences while they help people restabilize their lives during sorrow, disappointment, and loss. The successes are in renewed and redirected lives and Stephen Ministers take great joy in each "graduate" of our Ministry. If we can help you or a friend of yours through a temporary but difficult time, contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.



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: Bob Addison, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Willard Deal, Eliana, Bruce Hagenau, Mark Hughes, Megan Kendall, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Dr. Jane Morrison, Meredith Nash, Maria Nyunt, Maeve Ross, Greg Slingerland, Linda Thomas, Isabelle Vanucci, Allen Wade, Gail Williams, and people of Israel, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Attendance: 4/14 Worship 108 Online 16

Dates for your calendar:

- May 12 Mother's Day Outdoor Service, 10:30am
- May 19 70th Anniversary Service, 9am Fellowship, 10:30am Worship, 11:30am Lunch
- June 30 Los Niños Primero Sunday and Luncheon, 10:30am

Financial Update

April 12-18	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 18,142	\$213,355	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 17,124	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 93	\$ 17,068	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 18,235	\$247,547	\$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