



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - OUTDOOR WORSHIP
APRIL 28, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Each spring and fall,
MVPC tries to worship
outdoors twice to
enjoy the beauty God
provides through
creation.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Beautiful”

Phil Wickham

Jonathan Freeman, Mike & Kathy Havey, Emi Lutz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: The heavens declare the glory of God.

ALL: **Let us join with the angels in praising God.**

ONE: The plants and trees show God’s presence.

ALL: **Let us join with creation in praising God.**

ONE: The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it.

ALL: **Let us join with all living creatures in praising God.**

ONE: On this day, we celebrate God’s wonderful creation.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG**

“For The Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light. *(refrain)*

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight. *(refrain)*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. *(refrain)*

For Thy Church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love. *(refrain)*

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Creator God, each day you give us all that we need, including food to eat and clothes to wear. You invite us to be content with what we have, whether rich or poor. However, it is difficult for us to be satisfied when the world tempts us with what we desire but do not need. Our lack of contentment damages not just our own peace, but places additional burden on your creation to keep up with our greed. Forgive our weakness and teach us to be content. Give us thankful acceptance of your abundant provision and fill us with a spirit of generosity. Overwhelm us with your love, and show us what really satisfies ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

ROYAL OAK

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings:
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. *(refrain)*

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. *(refrain)*

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

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:4-13

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

This scripture was inspired by Creation Justice Ministries work titled *Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World*. To learn more about this organization that is in partnership with the PCUSA, please go to: creationjustice.org

HOMILY

"How To Be Content"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Heidelberg Catechism Inclusive Language 4.028*)

ONE: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

ALL: **We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God that nothing in creation will separate us from God's love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without God's will they can neither move nor be moved.**

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

"Blessings"

Laura Story

† 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.

Have you ever noticed how the words of the Doxology weave together God's love and creation?

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Kathy Havey

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“God of the Sparrow”

ROEDER

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe, How does the creature say Praise.

God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe, How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace, How does the creature say Thanks.

God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care, How does the creature say Life,

God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love, How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy, How do your children say Home

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

“Maple Leaf Rag”

Scott Joplin

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

Emi Lutz, Guitar

Jonathan Freeman, 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

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!



70th Anniversary RSVP

Name: _____

People Attending: _____

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:



May 5 History of the Church Hymn Sing, Communion

May 12 Esther 4:10-16, Mother's Day/Senior Recognition, Outdoor Service
Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Challenge Accepted! **Community Assistance Center** CEO Francis Horton will come to MVPC and pick up our donations to the CAC Food Pantries if we can fill his pickup truck. One more week to bring in your April Communion Offering Donations!

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 TODAY, 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) TODAY Sunday, April 28 at 3pm. Alex grew up at MVPC and MVPC member, Charlie Gray, is serving on his installation commission.



Committees & Coffee: all are invited who are curious about all the various committees we have going in the life of the church next Sunday, May 5 after worship in Fellowship Hall.

April 28, 2024



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: Spring cleaning time! Sometimes that includes our personal clutter! If you have been hoarding unproductive methods for dealing with a problem or have tried stuffing a shelf full of feelings without release or relief, please allow the skilled, trained Stephen Ministers on our campus to help you clear out the closet and begin to see daylight. Contact Pat Bartee Stephen Leader, or a pastor, to get started.

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

Christian Sympathy for the family and friends of long time member Gil Hastings who died on April 18. A memorial service is pending.

Attendance: 4/21 Worship 89 Online 23

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 19-25	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 5,084	\$218,439	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 1,730	\$ 18,854	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 182	\$ 17,250	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 6,996	\$254,543	\$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