



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 7, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Holy Humor Sunday derives from the early church tradition known as the *Risus Pascalis* - the Easter laugh. The faithful would tell jokes and play pranks as a celebration of Christ laughing in the face of death/the devil.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Take Me Out to the Church House”
(to the tune “Take Me Out to the Ballgame”)

Lyrics by B. Abernethy

Take Me Out to the Church House
Take me out to praise God
Lead me to the Connection Snacks
I won't spill 'em, I promise Malinda,
Let's root, root, root for the Risen One,
Giving grace is always His aim,
For on 1, 2, 3, days he rose as they rolled the stone away!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Joy is loose,

ALL: **In the wiggles of the children and the smiles of the adults.**

ONE: We praise God for this glorious day.

ALL: **Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.**

ONE: Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs.

ALL: **Let the laughter be deep, for we are Easter people. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG**

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the World, the Lord's alive, Awake, rejoice and sing!
It's just as He had said, He's risen from the dead.
Salvation now He brings, salvation now He brings,
Salvation, salvation now He brings.

Joy to the World, the empty tomb, proclaims a victory.
Of light compelling, a great dispelling of darkness in the world,
Of darkness in the world, of darkness, of darkness in the world.

Joy to the World, our Savior reigns,
Let Heaven and earth proclaim the glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

These songs and much of the liturgy are from the Holy Humor focused website called *The Joyful Noiseletter*. You can learn more at: joyfulnoiseletter.com

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Joy, we know that you have blessed us richly. Yet so often, we are down in the dumps over silly little disappointments. You have given us Jesus Christ, raised him from the dead, and promised us eternal life. Too often, in our brokenness, we ignore the gift of joyful resurrection. Forgive us, God! Keep us mindful that you always have the last laugh and that you are gleefully present throughout our lives ...
(silent confession) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“God Rest Ye Merry Sinner”

God bless you merry sinner, you're forgiven it is true;
Remember Christ your Savior has lived and died for you,
and lives again as King of Kings, of saint and sinner, too.

Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.

Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

In Jerusalem at Calvary that dismal Friday morn,
amid the pain and suffering eternal life was born.
It came with arms outstretched to us, right through the curtain torn.

Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.

Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

So sing an alleluia, for our Savior's victory,
and shout to all “Hosanna!” that we have been set free
from sin and death and devil's grip throughout eternity.

We'll have tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.

Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy.

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

Psalm 126

HOMILY

Sunday Funday

Part of faith is expressing joy. Humor can be joyful. Where do you find joy in your life of faith?

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who made us in God's image.
We live, we love, we laugh, because we long to be like God.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.
He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.
Our counselor, our guide, our motivator - and our joy!
Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world. Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Robert Thompson composed the following "Confession and Creed for Bright Sunday".

OFFERTORY

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"
Chancel Choir

arr. Virgil Thomson

† 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

Mary Lea Woods

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 elder 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

"Go Tell it On The Mountain"

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,

Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus is alive.

While soldiers watched the gravesite that quiet Sunday dawn
there came a big commotion and then the storm was gone. (*refrain*)

The women found no body their spices to anoint;
instead they found an angel, God's message to appoint. (*refrain*)

Go from where He isn't to where He said He'd be.
An Easter-time reunion. (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Alla Turca"

W.A. Mozart

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

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.

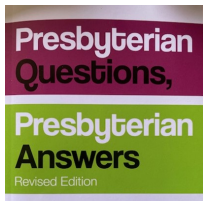
Upcoming Services/Events:



- April 14** Children, Youth, Young Adult Sunday, Luke 24:36b-48
- April 21** Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, President of Columbia Theological Seminary, "Does My Life Matter?", Psalm 80:1-7, John 10:11-18
Dr. Aloyo will also led a combined special Sunday School class beginning at 9:30am in the Chapel.



Congregational Meeting: TODAY following worship. Business will pertain to a property agreement between the Church and the City of Sandy Springs.



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.



Senior Adults: We have two trips coming up! On Thursday, April 18 we will be going to Columbia Seminary for Columbia Day, and then on Saturday, May 18 we are going to the Monastery. Details and signups for both trips are in the Narthex.



Ladies, please don't forget about the **Spring Cleaning** event from 11:30-2pm TODAY! It's a chance to get rid of all that is not worth keeping. The Mission and Outreach Teams have shared that you cannot discard your husbands even if you so desire.

April 7, 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 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: 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: Bob Addison, Bill Barron, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Willard 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

Attendance: 3/31 Sunrise Service 46
Worship 197 Online 38

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

Remember at Mount Vernon Presbyterian, we welcome all denominations:
\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$100.

Financial Update

March 29-31	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 5,848	\$182,329	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 2,004	\$ 13,874	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 300	\$ 16,602	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 8,152	\$212,805	\$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