



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 12, 2024 • 10:30 AM - OUTDOOR WORSHIP
Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

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

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Goodness of God”

Jenn Johnson

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Mike & Kathy Havey, Emi Lutz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We gather to worship our God who loved us before we were born,
ALL: **Who wraps us in unconditional love and intimate affection.**
ONE: We gather to worship our God who knows our most inward parts,
ALL: **Who remains by our side throughout life’s ups and downs.**
ONE: We gather to worship our God who teaches and comforts us,
ALL: **Who guides us down paths of connection and community.**
ONE: Our God calls us to worship!
ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG** (*see insert*)

“I Love to Tell the Story”

HANKEY

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know ‘tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; ‘twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; ‘tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God’s own holy Word. (*refrain*)

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
‘twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. (*refrain*)

In honor of Mother's Day, the hymns that we will sing together this morning were all written by women.

† BLESSING FOR MOTHERS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

O God of love, it is such a joy to bless our moms—those who have carried us in their bodies, and in their hearts, and in their minds, and all those who have mothered us in some form or fashion. We thank them and honor them all, those we can hug today, and those who are now gone or distant from us. We ask Your blessing too on those for whom mothering is complicated, difficult, heartbreaking, or incomplete. Bless and heal and restore and rebuild all generations, forwards and backwards in time.

This prayer, "A blessing for Mother's Day," was written by Kate Bowler, a Christian history professor at Duke and popular author.

God, with all the genius of Your creative power, rain down Your blessing upon the mothering we give, and that which we have received. Be to us the nurturing embrace we need to lead us to eternal life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE *(see insert)*

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

PROMISE

SENIOR RECOGNITION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

Emi Lutz - The Mount Vernon School

Franciscan University of Steubenville

(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

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

Esther 4:10-16

HOMILY

"Esther"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of 1967, Inclusive Version 9.35-9.37*)

Wherever the church exists, its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world. The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time. The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church's fidelity.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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

"Ave Maria"

Franz Schubert

Laurie Swann, Soloist

† 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

Emi Lutz

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*)

“O for a World”

AZMON

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“Calla Lilies”

Jill Hudson

The Calla Lily was Jill Hudson's mother's favorite flower. In 2020, Jill wrote the piano piece "Calla Lilies" in remembrance of her.

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
Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Guitar
Emi Lutz, Guitar

*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

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 19 70th Anniversary Celebration and Lunch, Matthew 16:13-19,
Rev. Barrett Abernethy
9:00am Fellowship on the Courtyard
10:30am Worship
11:30am Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

May 26 "All the Waze", Isaiah 6:1-8, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



Name Tags: There will be many visitors on our campus next Sunday. Please wear your name tag!



Senior Adults: On Saturday, May 18 we are going to the Monastery. Details and signups are in the Narthex.

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.



Jersey Boys the musical is coming to the City Springs Theater on July 16. This is a special performance with 20% of ticket sales go to CAC. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the Senior Adult table in the Narthex.



VBS 2024! Saturday, August 10 from 9:30-2:30. All children in preschool through rising 5th grade are invited to join! Registration link: mvpchurch.org/vbs2024.

May 12, 2024



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

Giving



Our **May Communion Offering** is for the summer camp program of Stirred-Up Ministries, an enrichment program for at-risk youth in the East Lake area of Atlanta. In addition to the summer camp program, Stirred-Up Ministries offers year-round support to these youth and their families including after school tutoring and mentoring, family counseling and intervention, and a food pantry for emergency needs. For more information, please go to <https://stirred-up.org/>



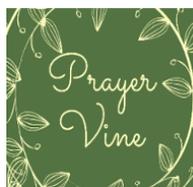
Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet next Tuesday, May 14, and study Lesson 9, *People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples* in the Horizons Bible Study. All women are invited to come to our PW events!



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: About one third of our care receivers come from the community around our church and have been referred by our members, pastors, and friends, or found us through our associated ministries or by visiting our church. Please remember to suggest us to non-member friends who are struggling with a move, grief, a new health diagnosis, empty nest, job loss, or other life difficulties. Contact a pastor or Pat Barte, Stephen Leader to begin!



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, Will Deal, Alma Dowdakin, Eliana, Bruce Hagenau, Mark Hughes, Megan Kendall, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Dr. Jane Morrison, Meredith Nash, Andy Nelson, Maria Nyunt, Maeve Ross, Will Rownd, Greg Slingerland, Linda Thomas, Isabelle Vanucci, Allen Wade, Gail Williams, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Attendance: 5/5 Worship 125

Dates for your calendar:

- June 2** **New Sermon Series: Fruit of the Spirit. We will look at the Fruits of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:25-5:2)**
- June 30** **Los Niños Primero Sunday and Luncheon, 10:30am**
- August 10** **Vacation Bible School @ MVPC, 9am-2pm**
- August 25** **Healthy Aging Conference @ MVPC, 1:30-4pm (more details at the Senior Adult table in the Narthex)**

Financial Update

May 1-8	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 4,677	\$230,890	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 200	\$ 19,804	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 52	\$ 17,339	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 4,929	\$268,033	\$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