



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DAY OF PENTECOST

MAY 19, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Wondering about our new church logo? Read the cover article in next month's *Good News* to learn more. You can also find previous issues on our website.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Various Selections

RINGING OF THE BELLS

† PROCESSION HYMN #555

"Now Thank We All Our God"

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

John Allen, MVP Foundation

OPENING PRAYER

Shari Freeman

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ron Gilreath

ONE: The Psalmist says, "The days of our life are Seventy Years."

ALL: We give thanks for the work of the saints who built upon Christ's cornerstone!

ONE: Yet we look around this sanctuary and we know our work and this church's life are not complete.

ALL: Place within us the Pentecost fire to welcome, worship, share, and serve for another Seventy Years!

ONE: Indeed! For a true body of Christ recognizes we are whole because we are bonded by those who came before, those here today, and those still to come!

ALL: Let us rejoice in the timelessness that transcends and ties us together! Let us worship God!

Ron Gilreath served MVPC as Associate Pastor from 1998-2014. He is still known for his gift of pastoral care.

† HYMN (*see next page*)

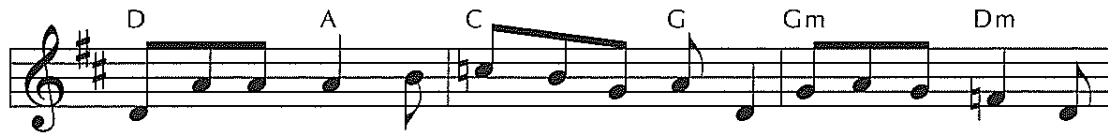
"Gather Us In"

GATHER US IN

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



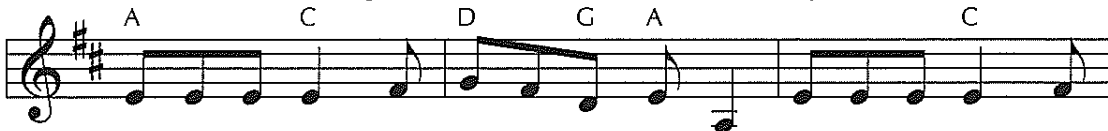
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



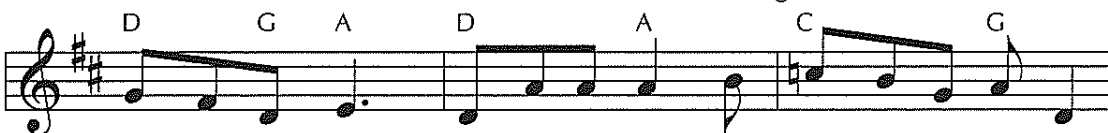
van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



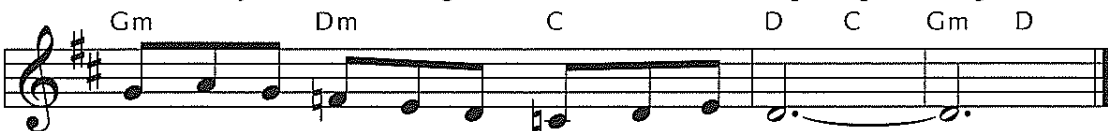
brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Rick Sommers

ALL: Timeless and Ever Forgiving God, we mark watershed moments with ritual and celebration. We give thanks for the feeling of wholeness that fondly recalls both past and present moments of living out our faith in your name. It is a joy to look around and know that your Spirit continues to dwell within and through this sanctuary and far beyond.

Rick Sommers served as Senior Pastor from 1996-2007. During his tenure the church helped found Los Niños Primero. Come back June 30 for Los Niños worship and lunch!

Yet we also acknowledge the times when we have failed to be the church you envisioned. When we were not as hospitable as we claim. When we kept the worshipping spirit inside the walls. When we hoarded the blessings bestowed to us. When we chose to serve ourselves first instead of our fellow neighbor.

On this seventieth Anniversary of your church, we celebrate that your Son, Jesus Christ, proclaims a Word of overflowing forgiveness, to forgive not just seven times, but seventy times seven! Forgive us through this grace, and let us seek to be the church you imagine for seventy more years to come ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Refrain

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you; (2x)

To see You high and lifted up shinin’ in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your Power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy ...
I want to see you.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac 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. Jodi Martin

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:13-19

HOMILY

“Things Bound and Things Loosed”

Rev. Abernethy

† HYMN *(see next page)*

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

Jodi Martin served MVPC alongside her husband, Joe B., from 2009 - 2017. In addition to their service to the church, she and Joe B. coached middle school basketball at the MV School.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

THE RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Brief Statement of Faith*)

Revs. Phillip & Caroline Dennis

ALL: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Caroline (Vinson) Dennis is a child of this church and currently serves Westminster Presbyterian in Greenwood, SC. Her husband, Phillip, was ordained in this church.

OFFERTORY

"With a Voice of Singing"
James Wingate, Organist

Martin Shaw

† 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

Rev. Dr. Carol Strickland

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Abernethy
Rev. Toney-Schmitt
Shari Freeman

Carol Strickland served MVPC from 1989-2009. She is still known for her deeply spiritual prayers.

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.)*

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.

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

† HYMN (*see insert*)

"The Summons"

KELVINGROVE

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let them turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Psalm 19"
James Wingate

Marcello

*Following the Postlude, please remain in the sanctuary
to take a 70th Anniversary picture!*

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

Special Guests
Rev. Ron Gilreath
Rev. Dr. Rick Sommers
Rev. Jodi Martin
Rev. Dr. Asa Meadows
Rev. Phillip & Caroline Dennis
Rev. Dr. Carol Strickland
James Wingate

Jim Wingate
served for over 20
years as MVPC's
Director of Music.
He is forever
recognized for his
talent playing our
organ.

We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

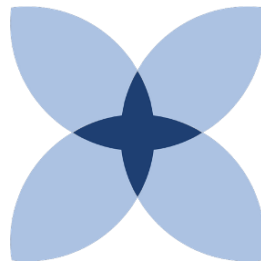


mvpchurch.org

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

MVPC Announcements....

Sunday School
9:30 - 10:15am



Connection
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

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.

Upcoming Services/Events:



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

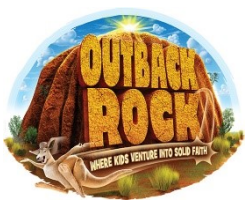
May 28 Taizé, 7pm Outdoor (weather permitting)

June 2 "Summer Fruit: Love", Luke 15:11-32, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory to God and in celebration of our 70th Anniversary in honor of family and friends and in loving memory of those saints of the church who are with us in spirit by Malinda Holmes and Debbie & David Barclift.



Jersey Boys the musical is coming to the City Springs Theater on July 16. This is a special performance with 20% of ticket sales going to CAC. For more information 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: www.myvbs.org/mvpc2024/



Lunch Bunch: Join Isaac & Shari for lunch after worship next Sunday, May 26 at City BBQ.

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, use the camera on your phone to hover over this QR Code.



May 19, 2024



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

Giving



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: Stephen Ministers are available to walk with you through your "bumps in the road". Some "bumps" are huge like grief, divorce, job loss, a new health diagnosis, or others seem huge because they cause such upset, lack of concentration, pain. Whatever it is, we are here to journey through it with you. Please contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get involved.



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, Lorry Clark, Will Deal, Alma Dowdakin, Eliana, Bruce Hagenau, Betsy Hastings, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Meredith Nash, Andy Nelson, Maria Nyunt, Maeve Ross, Will Rownd, Greg Slingerland, Linda Thomas, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Attendance: 5/12 Outdoor Worship 98, Online 31

Dates for your calendar:

June 2	Summer Sermon Series: Fruits of the Spirit
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

Financial Update

	Actual	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
May 9-14			
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 40	\$230,930	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 19,804	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving &			
Loose Offering	\$ 99	\$ 17,438	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 139	\$268,172	\$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