



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

AUGUST 18, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Don't forget to stop by our prayer tree in the Narthex. This tree, an Iron Wood, is native to Georgia, and at the end of our *Planting Trees* series will be planted on our campus.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"I Am a Pilgrim"

Mike & Kathy Havey

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: From where have you heard God's call?

ALL: **From behind the trees of the Great Genesis Garden and from flaming bushes in the wilderness.**

ONE: To where has this call led you?

ALL: **To this sanctuary, with these people.**

ONE: What has this call asked of you?

ALL: **To recognize the holy ground we stand on and know the God who calls us. Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG #488

"The God of Abraham Praise"

LEONI

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;

The ancient of eternal days, the God of Love!

The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,

We bow before Your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;

In prophet's word You spoke of old and You speak still.

Established is Your law, and changeless it shall stand,

Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;

Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.

We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name;

The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

This hymn originated in the 12th Century when the Jewish scholar Maimondes created the Yigdel, or doxology, which codified the 13 articles of the Jewish creed. This work was taken by Thomas Olivers, a Wesleyan preacher, who christianised Maimondes work in 1772 to the hymn we sing today.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of our Ancestors, you must know that there are many claims on our lives, and it can be difficult to discern your particular call in the midst of them. Work responsibilities, family and friend relationships, social obligations, household chores; each can claim too much of us. We confess that we are not always attuned to your call, but we want to be! Help us to balance our days so that we may hear you when you call to us out of flaming bushes or dirty dishes or bumper to bumper traffic. We are here ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE *(see insert)* **“We Are Standing on Holy Ground”**

HOLY GROUND

Glory to God Hymnal

We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground. (2x)

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.)*

*(Thank you for signing the Attendance Pad found at the end of your pew.
Please pass it along to your neighbor.)*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Exodus: 3:1-10

HOMILY

“Planting Trees: The Burning Bush”

RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from The Confession of 1967, 9.15-9.16, Inclusive Language Version*)

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

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

"When Israel Was in Egypt's Land"

African American Spiritual

† **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.

Inspired by the liberation of the ancient Jewish people from Egypt, this song was sung by enslaved people fleeing bondage. Harriett Tubman used this song as a code when people were fleeing the state of Maryland.

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gloria Gillespie

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #525

"Here I Am, Lord"

HERE I AM, LORD

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send? (*refrain*)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Voluntary in C Major"

Phil Lehenbauer

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

Rev. 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

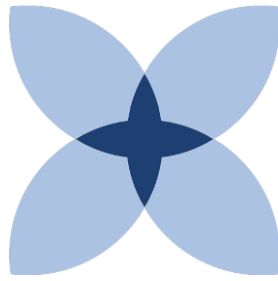


mvpchurch.org

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

Parking at MVPC during the week: if you come to the church, please park in the church staff designated spots on the Johnson Ferry side. Sometimes the lot will be full due to school events but these spots will be coned off. If you ever have trouble finding a spot, call the church office and we will come help you.

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:



August 25 "Planting Trees: The Broom Tree", 1 Kings 19:1-9, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

September 1 "Planting Trees: The Planters", Matthew 20:1-16, Shari Freeman

September 8 MVP Foundation Sunday: Join us as we celebrate 25 years of the Foundation with Fox Bros. BBQ luncheon to follow.



Community Assistance Center (CAC) has an urgent need for diapers, canned goods, pasta, baby food, baby wipes, baby formula, cereal, bottles of water, toilet paper, paper towels.



Healthy Aging Event: Sunday, August 25, 1:30-4pm. For more information, please check the Senior Adult Table in the Narthex. If you would like to volunteer for this event, contact Isaac or Pat Bartee.



Braves Game: We're going to the last Braves game of the season on **Sunday, September 29!** Tickets are \$60 each which includes carpool/parking and ticket. Make a check out to MVPC (include in the Memo line "Braves") and leave in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.



Our August Communion Offering is new school supplies for Sandy Springs Education Force and Stirred Up Ministries. SSEF creates targeted programs that educate, inspire and prepare public school students in Sandy Springs for a competitive world. Stirred Up Ministries is an enrichment program for at-risk youth in the East Lake area of Atlanta.



Annual Connections Recognition Tea is September 22 after worship in the Kirk Center. This special Tea, by invitation, is for everyone involved with preparing and serving our Congregation within the past year! Invites will be out soon.

August 18, 2024

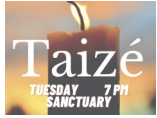


Make sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date!

Giving



Presbyterian Women: the **Day Circle** meeting and Bible study will be on September 10 at 10:30 in the session room. This year we will be studying *What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture* by Dale Lindsay Morgan. Contact Sarah Chalpan if you need a book. (Note the difference in meeting time – 10:30). The **Book Circle** will meet September 13 at 10am and the book is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.



Taizé: Join us for our next service on Tuesday, August 27 at 7pm in the Sanctuary.



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 is now back to full strength after the commissioning of new ministers in July. We long to serve our congregation and community. There is no reason at MVPC to carry a burden or suffer alone. Please call on a Stephen Minister to help assist you and journey with you through life's "bumps in the road". Call 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, Chitip Likitcharoen, Lorry Clark, Bruce Hagenau, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Chuck McCrory, Bruce Morine, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Minnie Robinson, Maeve Ross, Chandler Schaefer, Katherine Slayback (Anna Morine's caregiver), and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Christian Sympathy to the friends and family of Dave Whitacre who died August 3. His funeral will be Saturday, August 24 at 2pm in the Sanctuary.

Attendance: 8/11 Worship 84, Online 10

Giving Statements for January-June 2024 have been emailed or mailed.

Thanks for all you do for MVPC! Yvonne

Financial Update

As of August 15	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$349,846	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 44,736	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 21,150	\$ 9,000
Total	\$415,732	\$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