

# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

AUGUST 25, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

## GATHERING

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### GATHERING MUSIC

**"Come as You Are"**

Crowder

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### OPENING PRAYER

#### † CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Psalm 27)*

ONE: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

**ALL: The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?**

ONE: The Lord will hide me in a shelter on the day of trouble.

**ALL: The Lord will conceal me in the cover of a tent and set me high on a rock.**

ONE: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

**ALL: "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"**

ONE: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

**ALL: Be strong, and let your heart take courage. Let us worship God!**

#### † MORNING SONG (#281)

**"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

CWM RHONDDA

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand;  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;  
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee,  
I will ever give to Thee.

This Welsh hymn uses imagery from the Exodus story, which also has great similarities to our story today in 1 Kings 19 as the character of Elijah and Moses have many commonalities.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of Refuge, create a safe place for your people. There are many powers in this world that seem much too big and much too frightening; violence and threats, hunger and thirst, fleeing or staying. At times, the feeling of hopelessness settles in, and we give up. Even in that moment, your presence remains. Your still, small voice visits us, and your messengers bring us nourishment and motivation. In the middle of it all you provide care. Let that care protect us so that we may continue on as your people ... *(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.)*

**THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:1-9

HOMILY

*"Planting Trees: The Broom Tree"*

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Nicene Creed*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The 3 words highlighted in the parenthesis, known as the Filioque, is the main reason the church split in 1054 between the Eastern church and the Western church. The Western church affirmed these 3 words, making the Son co-equal with the Father while the Eastern church believed the Holy Spirit proceeded only from the Father, but not the Son. This debate is still alive today.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

**"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"**

Virgil Thompson

Chancel Choir

### † 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.

Each Sunday, a church member offers this prayer signifying our commitment to be a "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:4-10). If you would like to offer this prayer during a future Sunday, let one of the pastors know.

### † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mike Havey

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*)

#### **"All Who Hunger"**

HOLY MANNA

*Sing the Faith Hymnal*

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wandering.  
Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were lost  
and scattered in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here, in peace, we have been led.  
Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

#### **"Strong Deliverer"**

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.*

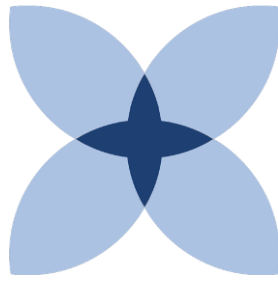
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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](http://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 27** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary

**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:** TODAY, August 25, 1:30-4pm. If you would like to volunteer for this event, contact Isaac or Pat Bartee.



**Lunch Bunch:** Join Isaac and Shari for lunch after worship next Sunday, September 1 at City BBQ!



**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.



**Small Groups:** Please sign up on the table in the Narthex for the fall small groups.

**August 25 2024**



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

Giving



stirred:up

**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.



**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.



**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 a group of trained and skilled laypeople who want to accompany congregation members and friends from the community as they cope with difficult times in their lives. Our team has training and experience to help with grief, divorce, job loss, changes wrought by moving, a new health diagnosis or a lengthy health journey, empty nest blues, early memory loss, caregiver support, spiritual questioning, and other "bumps in the road". 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, 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 Rev. Frank Brown, who served as Senior Pastor of MVPC from 1967-1979 died on August 3.

**Attendance:** 8/18 Worship 82, Online 30

### Financial Update

As of August 22	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$358,116	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 45,196	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 21,232	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$424,544</b>	<b>\$578,000</b>

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)