



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - OUTDOOR
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 • 10:30 AM
Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

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

Welcome to outdoor service.
If your pets get antsy at some
point in the service, feel free
to take them to the Lower
Campus field to run around.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Inside Out”

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Jesus said, “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.” So we look!

ALL: We look for signs that seasons are changing and that the Kingdom of God is near.

ONE: We’ve heard that there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,

ALL: And signs in the mountains and the rivers, in the sky and in the earth.

ONE: Let’s attune our worship to the sights and sounds of the Kingdom of God in this courtyard.

ALL: Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG** (*see insert*) **“All Creatures of Our God and King”**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, your Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness.
O sing ye! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of Growth and Grace, hear our confession through the words of this hymn: *There is a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea. There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment given. For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind. And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but made more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word, and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord ... (silent confession) ... Amen.*

This confession quotes the hymn “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” written by Frederick Faber in 1854. It has been said that this hymn “cheers on the soul, recognizing the troubles in life, and hold out the promise of a final homecoming.”

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE

“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)

This ritual has its roots in the celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, who is seen as the patron saint of animals. His feast day on October 4 and Catholic and Anglican churches carry out this ritual in response. The ritual, as seen here, has transcended denomination.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

(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

Luke 21:29-33

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

HOMILY

“Planting Trees: The Budding Fig Tree”

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language 9.08)*

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

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

"A Place in the Choir"

Bill Staines

Choir Critters

† 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. Jonathan Freeman

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*)

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Sing the Faith Hymnal

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory, blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire; flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, the light of your love is shining in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us, shine on me, shine on me. (*refrain*)

Lord, I come to your awesome presence from the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness, search me, try me, consume all my
darkness. Shine on me, shine on me. (*refrain*)

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Autumn"

Antonio Vivaldi

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

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,
go to the Visitor's Table to pick up a visitor bag and a little gift.*

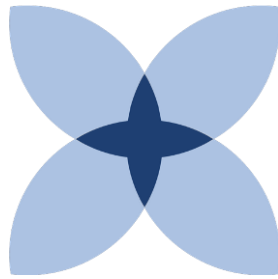
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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, 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:



September 24 Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary

September 29 "Planting Trees: The Good Soil", Luke 8:4-15, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Congregational Meeting, Election of new church officers

October 6 "Planting Trees: the Grapevine", John 15:1-17, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
World Communion Sunday



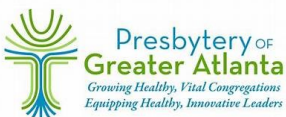
Braves Game: LAST CHANCE! We're going to the last Braves game of the season next **Sunday, September 29!** Tickets are \$60 each which includes carpool/parking and ticket. Make a check out to MVPC (include in the Memo line "Braves") and leave it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.



Men's Breakfast: All men are invited to breakfast next Sunday, September 29 at 8:30am in Fellowship Hall.



The September Communion Offering is focusing on children's needs for the Food Pantries 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.



Volunteers Needed: We are expecting 250-300 people on our campus on Saturday, November 9. We will need parking attendants, fellowship/food volunteers, shepherding, helping wherever help is needed. There is a SignUp Genius for volunteering on our website.

September 22, 2024



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The Presbyterian Women **Day Circle** meeting and Bible study will meet on Tuesday, October 8, at 10:30 in the session room. We will be studying Lesson 2: Songs of Worship and War in *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 on Friday, October 11, at 10:00 in the session room. We will be reviewing *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*.



Adult Sunday School: Discovery meets in the Chapel and is using the curriculum “*The Present Word*”. **Crossroads** meets in the Session Room and is studying “*Understanding the New Testament*” by David Brakke, Ph.D. Both classes meet at 9:30am. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Stephen Ministry: Nothing gets better until you start to tackle the issue! Let your trained, skilled Stephen Minister walk that journey with you, listening with confidentiality in mind, helping you clarify the real problems and root causes, offering encouragement and resources and comfort as you work through issues that have been dragging you down. 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, A.J. Cole, Gene Elder, Allison Eustis, Chitip Likitcharoen, Bruce Hagenau, Nichol Jacobs, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Corny Laube, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Nancy Nutter, Minnie Robinson, Maeve Ross, Chandler Schaefer, Katherine Slayback (Anna Morine’s caregiver), and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Attendance: 9/15 Worship 80, Online 11

Dates for your calendar:

September 29	Congregational Meeting to elect new church officers MVPC goes to the last Braves game of the season
October 13	Committees & Coffee, after worship in Fellowship Hall
October 20	Pumpkin Palooza, 4-6pm
October 27	All Saints Service - Outdoor, bagpipes
November 9	Hosting Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting, 9am-3pm
December 1	Hanging of the Greens and Dinner, 5pm

Financial Update

As of September 19	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$381,931	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 49,515	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 21,693	\$ 9,000
Total	\$453,139	\$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