



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 13, 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

"In the Secret"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Sylvia McAdam, Hurricane Helene Relief

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: When we climb up the tree,

ALL: We can see the redeeming power of love.

ONE: When we climb up the tree,

ALL: We can see that the riches of faith far supersede the wealth of the world.

ONE: When we climb up the tree,

ALL: We can see a new way to live that points us to salvation in this life and the next. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG #398**

"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord:
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove, Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;
And for these blessing we lift our hearts in praise.

Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fulness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." (*refrain*)

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Grace, you welcome us when we are short.

When we are short tempered.

When we are short sighted.

When we are short on confidence.

When we are short of breath.

By your grace, you invite us to confess when our shortness hurts someone else.
Through your grace, you comfort us when we are in deep need of hope. With your grace, you heal and soothe us when we are broken. This is why Zacchaeus climbed the Sycamore tree, because even though he was short in stature, he knew the grace you imparted to your Son, Jesus Christ, was far more precious than any tax he could collect.

"More Precious Than Silver"

(see insert)

Lord, you are more precious than silver

Lord, you are more costly than gold.

*Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,
And nothing I desire compares with you. (2x)*

Guide us like you did, Zacchaeus. Grant us the passion to climb the tree to see you, to know you, and to grow our faith taller and taller so we might share in your endless grace ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† 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)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. 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 ground beneath the Sycamore tree is typically bare of other plants. The Sycamore tree's roots are shallow and intertwined, making it difficult for other plants to grow. This does make it an excellent shade tree to rest under.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

HOMILY

"Planting Trees: The Sycamore Tree"

The Larger Catechism was written as a companion to The Westminster Standards. By its completion, it was longer than the original Westminster Standard. It is meant to be a preacher's aid in explaining church doctrine. The Shorter Catechism is used for teaching young people.

RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Question 45 of the Larger Catechism*)

How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Christ executes the office of a king, in calling out of the world a people to himself; and giving them officers, laws, and censures, by which he visibly governs them; in bestowing saving grace upon his elect, rewarding their obedience, and correcting them for their sins, preserving and supporting them under all their temptations and sufferings; restraining and overcoming all their enemies, and powerfully ordering all things for his own glory, and their good; and also in taking vengeance on the rest, who know not God, and obey not the gospel.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Jonathan 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

"JLM"

Bradley Phillips

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.

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Donna Martin

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #324	“Open My Eyes That I May See” <i>(see the Blue Hymnal)</i>	OPEN MY EYES
† BENEDICTION		Rev. Toney-Schmitt
CHORAL BENEDICTION	“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”	Helen H. Lemmel
POSTLUDE	“Meditation on Aurelia”	arr. Elizabeth Krouse

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Jill Hudson, Music Director

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Guitar & Liturgist

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.*

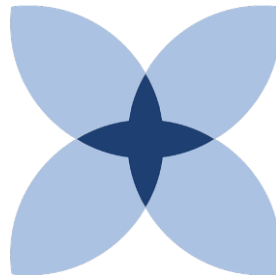
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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

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:



October 20 "Planting Trees: The Useless Tree", Judges 9:7-15, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

October 22 Taizé Service, 7pm

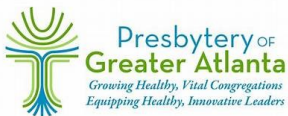
October 27 "Planting Trees: The Tree of Life", Revelation 22:1-7, Shari Freeman
OUTDOOR SERVICE celebrating All Saints' Day with the John Mohr MacKintosh Pipe and Drum Band



Our **October Communion Offering** is for treats to benefit area schools' fall festival activities. If you would like to help hand out these treats as well as books from the Sandy Springs Education Force Mini Libraries Program, contact beppielever@earthlink.net. Dates at various schools are Oct. 24, 25, and Nov. 1.



SOCKtober: We will be collecting new and gently used socks in all sizes for men, women, and children which will go to various outreach partners, including Community Assistance Center, Stirred-Up Ministries, International Women's House, VA Domiciliary, and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.



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.



Pumpkin Palooza: Invite your family and friends to our Pumpkin Palooza on Sunday, October 20 from 4-6pm. There will be several activities and a costume contest for anyone between the ages of 0-100!



Committees & Coffee: Plan on staying after worship TODAY in the Fellowship Hall. Committees can meet and discuss their upcoming events.

October 13, 2024



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The Presbyterian Women **Day Circle and Bible study** will meet on Tuesday, November 12, at 10:30 in the Session room. Barbara Brooks will lead Lesson 3: *Conversations of Kindness: Ruth and Naomi* in *What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture*, by Dale Lindsay Morgan. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, November 8, at 10:00 in the Session room. Pat Davis will lead a review of *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate and Sophie Amos.



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: The hardest part is asking for help. Most of us feel we are well-informed, independent, functioning adults who have always handled our problems. But then, that tsunami arrives that we cannot manage. How comforting to know that we do not have to face it alone but have Stephen Ministers to call on to help us through the turmoil! Please connect with Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get help.



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, Hazel Cofield, Mike Damron, Gene Elder, Chitip Likitcharoen, Bruce Hagenau, Barbara Hughes, Nichol Jacobs, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Corny Laube, Bob & Donna Martin, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Maeve Ross, Katherine Slayback (Anna Morine's caregiver), Ann Young, and the people of Israel/ Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Attendance: 10/6 Worship 78, Online 12

Dates for your calendar:

October 27	All Saints Service - Outdoor, John Mohr MacKintosh Pipe and Drum Band Lunch Bunch after worship
November 9	Hosting Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting, 9am-3pm, Volunteers needed
December 1	Hanging of the Greens and Dinner, 5pm

Financial Update

As of October 7	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$410,131	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 54,626	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 22,184	\$ 9,000
Total	\$486,941	\$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