

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 20, 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 Christ Alone”

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Keith Getty &

Stuart Townend

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We worship the God of abundance,

ALL: And we share our abundance with others.

ONE: We worship the God who is our refuge and fortress,

ALL: And we seek to offer shelter and safety to others.

ONE: We worship the God who loves us without abandon,

ALL: And we extend that love to others in God’s name. Let us worship God!

† MORNING SONG #485

“To God be the Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be,
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (*refrain*)

Written by Fanny Crosby in 1875 and based on Galatians 1:4-5, this hymn was not widely sung until Billy Graham’s song leader was handed a copy of it in 1954. After it was sung at crusades in London and Nashville, this hymn became popular worldwide.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

O Great God, we are called to worship only you and to seek your way in this world. Through your generosity and abundance, you give us all we need – food, drink, shelter, and protection. Too often, however, we lose sight of you, and instead value the gifts instead of the giver.

Forgive us when we make an idol of materialism, worshipping extravagance and consumption. Forgive us when we make an idol of temporary safety and security, forsaking true peace. Forgive us when we make an idol of success and prosperity, ignoring the needs of those around us.

Gently turn our hearts and minds back towards you. Remind us that you are the giver of all good things. Give us joyful and generous hearts to celebrate your goodness and share your abundance ... *(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)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Judith Roe

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

(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.)*

We do the Reception of New Member liturgy to signify that when we join a community/ welcome someone, we are making a covenant to live communally and faithfully together.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Judges 9:7-15

HOMILY

"Planting Trees: The Useless Tree"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Scots Confession, 3.01*)

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.

Each one of our confessions are considered to be "subordinate standards," in that they are subordinate to the Bible. Yet we also believe it is important to affirm & join our voices with these creeds to inspire our faith, say what we believe, and celebrate the faith of the communion of saints, whether it be past, present, or future.

PRAYER 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

"None Like You"

Craig Courtney

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

Deb Galloway

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #467

“How Great Thou Art”

○ STORE GUD

○ Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze (*refrain*)

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin (*refrain*)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (*refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary No. 1”

Arlen Clarke

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care

Jill Hudson, Music Director

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Guitar

Chancel Choir of MVP

*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

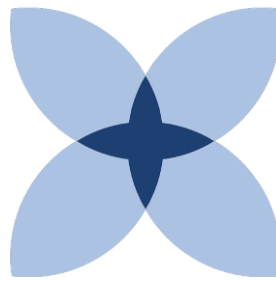


mvpchurch.org

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

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 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

November 3 *"Planting Trees: The Acacia Tree", Exodus 25:10-16, Rev. Barrett Abernethy*



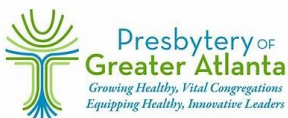
Pumpkin Palooza: All families are invited to join the fun **this afternoon!** Come as you are or come in costume for a costume contest. Family fun activities include pumpkin decorating, face painting, balloons, and games. We look forward to seeing you for a beautiful fall afternoon!



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 for Presbytery Meeting We expect 250-300 visitors on campus on Saturday, November 9, as we host the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. We still have open volunteer spots for this event, including parking attendants, registration help, ushers, greeters, childcare, and help preparing and serving lunch. Please sign up using the link on our website or let a staff member know if you are available to help make this event successful!



Lunch Bunch: Join Isaac and Shari for lunch next Sunday, October 27 at City BBQ.

October 20, 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: Has the last bit of news toppled you? Is your reserve tank overflowing? Is your loneliness overwhelming? Do you need another sounding board other than friends and family? Stephen Ministry is here for our congregation and community members struggling with pile-up, temporary, and chronic issues. Our skilled, continuously trained laypeople listen, encourage, comfort, clarify, and walk with you through hard times and honor confidentiality. No one should feel they must struggle alone. Reach out to Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get connected.



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, Nichol Jacobs, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Cory 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: 10/13 Worship 88, Online 13

Dates for your calendar:

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 17	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$423,661	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 54,636	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 22,312	\$ 9,000
Total	\$500,312	\$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