



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 24, 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

“Canticle of the Turning”

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: As we close the liturgical year,

ALL: Let us proclaim this a year of the Lord’s favor!

ONE: We have acknowledged Christ in several ways during this 70th year.

ALL: We have examined the crosses of the campus, feasted on summer fruit, and planted trees of faith.

ONE: Let us rejoice in the Oak of Righteousness that has been planted by God here at Mount Vernon.

ALL: Let us give thanks to Christ the King who continues to inspire our faith as we look toward our 71st year! Let us worship God!

† MORNING SONG #554

“Let All Things Now Living”

ASH GROVE

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces. The stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing with glad adoration, a song let us raise;
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving, to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Christ the King, like a powerful oak you stand above and over us, shading us from the unbearable heat and shielding us from the piercing storm. Amid that kingly image, however, you are also the one who will sweat with us when we must confront the scorching stress of this world, and you are the one who will walk alongside us as we stagger through the storm.

Remind us of these truths. Remind us when we feel isolated and alone. Remind us when we feel superior and royal. Remind us when we forget our place or forget you are present, for you are the one who proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

Free us, in your regal way, from the captivity of our own mind. Help us to see you in those times of stress and storms. For you are the King of Protection and Presence, pointing us to everlasting joy ... *(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

Shari Freeman

(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. Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-7

HOMILY

"Planting Trees: The Oaks of Righteousness"

Next week we will plant our Prayer Tree! So, this is the last week to add a prayer on the branches before we bless those prayers and pray that they are nourished in the soil.

RESPONSE

A Modern English version of the Westminster Standards was developed and adopted by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) in 1984. The EPC was founded in 1981 in Livonia, MI. They currently have 629 churches and 121k members.

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Westminster Larger Catechism, Modern English version)*

How is Christ a king?

As king, Christ calls a people for himself out of the world and gives them officers, laws, and the authority to condemn, by which he visibly governs them. He bestows saving grace on his elect, rewards their obedience, corrects them for their sins, preserves and supports them in all their temptations and suffering, restrains and overcomes all their enemies, and powerfully orders everything for his own glory and their well-being. As king, Christ also executes just retribution against all others who neither know God nor obey the gospel. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

arr. John Ness Beck

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

Guy Lever

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Shari Freeman

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion.
If you prefer to remain seated, an Elder will bring communion to you.)*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #151

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

DIADEMATA

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:

No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace; whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:

His reign shall know no end; and round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time; →

Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.

All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Add the "Potentate of Time" to the many ways you acknowledge Christ's kingly-ness! A "potentate" has total, supreme power over all things.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

CORONATION

(Please stay to help the Worship Ministry Team get out the greens and trees for the Advent/Christmas season)

Leading Today's Worship Service

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



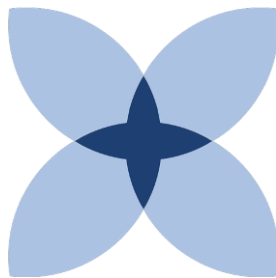
Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

MVPC Announcements....



We will be hosting the week of Dec. 22-29. Family Promise sign up is on the MVPC website: mvpchurch.org.

Sunday School
9:30 - 10:15am



Connection
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

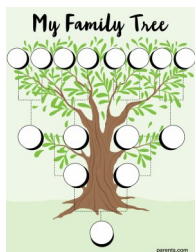


Don't forget that Zooming thru the Carols starts Monday, Dec. 2 at noon! Join us for this quick devotional each weekday of Advent!

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:



December 1 "Planting Trees: The Family Tree", Isaiah 11:10-16, Matthew 1:1-17, Shari Freeman

December 8 "Planting Trees: The Chrismon Tree", John 8:12-20, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Thanksgiving: New this year, A change in plans. Mary Lea Woods and Gerald Fudge are hosting a potluck Thanksgiving meal. The invitation is open to anyone wanting to gather around the table to share good food, fellowship and gratitude. Please see Mary Lea in the Narthex or call 404.668.0151.

You can make a child's holiday season a little happier! Give holiday gifts to children of local families in need through the Community Assistance Center. Donors are asked to spend ~\$100 per child and bring their new and unwrapped gifts to CAC. The adoption portal closes the first week of December. Visit <https://ourcac.org/give-to-youth-programs/> for more info.

Senior Adults: Experience the magic of the holiday season with the Atlanta Christkindl Market, a unique German tradition on Wed., Dec. 4. We'll carpool to the **Cobb Galleria** (corrected location) in the morning and have lunch onsite while doing some Christmas shopping. Please sign up at the Seniors table on Sunday or contact Mary Lea Woods at woods1166@yahoo.com or 404.668.0151.

Presbyterian Women: The Presbyterian Women **Day Circle and Bible study** will meet on Tuesday, December 10 at 10:30 in the Kirk Center. Beth Abernethy will lead Lesson 4: *Prayers From the Heart, Hannah*. They will have a Christmas luncheon following the lesson, also in the Kirk Center. The **Book Circle** will meet on December 13 at the home of Ann Williams. Ann Young will lead a review of *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan. They will have a Christmas luncheon following the review.



November 24, 2024



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

Giving



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 holidays are not always joyous for all people. Perhaps you live alone, perhaps you are still grieving for someone not at the table this year, or perhaps bringing family together promotes reminders of disharmony. Stephen Ministers are here to help you find safety and sanity during a hectic season. Contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get connected with this helpful group of trained, skilled laypeople.



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, Mary Collins, Viola Crawford, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Corny Laube, Chitip Likitcharoen, Chuck McCrory, Bill & Susan McLeish, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Elaine Player, Maeve Ross, Katherine Slayback, Ann Young, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Attendance: 11/17 Worship 98, Online 16

Dates for your calendar:

December 1	Hanging of the Greens and Dinner, 5pm
December 15	Atlanta Concert Band Performance
December 22	Lessons & Carols
December 24	Live Nativity 4:30pm
	Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm

There is still time! Please consider giving a pledge for 2025 if you have not done so.

Financial Update

As of November 21	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$463,035	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 57,556	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 22,727	\$ 9,000
Total	\$543,318	\$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