



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
NOVEMBER 3, 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**

**“Revelation Song”**

Jennie Lee Riddle

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Gather your best materials to create something new!

**ALL: Bring the finest wood and gold, plus the sturdiest stones.**

ONE: Create something new to share in our community and offer to God!

**ALL: Build a holy space to experience God’s presence.**

ONE: Know that God dwells among us and promises to be a part of life here.

**ALL: Celebrate that promise, and extend the invitation to all! Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #379**

**“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

**SOLID ROCK**

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *(refrain)*

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. *(refrain)*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found,  
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. *(refrain)*

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of All, we cannot build ourselves up to be the holy vessels you long for us to be. We are rough around the edges, smudged in once shiny places, pulled apart at our corners. We are made in your image, but we must also be sustained in your image. Fashion us into holy vessels that hold your promises of love and relationship in our lives. Smooth our rough edges, polish away the smudges, and add supports for our weakest points. Forgive us, and use us to invite others into relationship with you ... *(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. 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

Exodus 25:10-16

HOMILY

*“Planting Trees: The Acacia Tree”*

One of the most famous trees was the Tenere Tree, an acacia tree located in the Sahara landscape of northeast Niger. It was said to be the most insolated tree in the world, about 250 miles from the next tree. Sadly, it was knocked down by a truck driver in 1973.

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*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.

### OFFERTORY

#### “Where Your Treasure Is”

Marty Haugen

Chancel Choir

Nichol Jacobs, Anthony Menardi, Laurie Wells, Rebecca Shipley - Soloists

This anthem draws inspiration from Matthew 6:21 “where your treasure is, there your heart will be.” It reminds us that the act of stewardship reveals our values and our hopes.

### † 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

Moira Spiers

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Shari Freeman

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 usher will bring communion to you.)*

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

## SENDING

*(During this hymn members are invited to come forward and place their pledge cards in the basket.)*

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL #369

#### "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'M GONNA LIVE

I'm gonna **live** so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna **live** so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna **work** so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna **work** so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna **pray** so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna **pray** so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna **sing** so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna **sing** so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

A long time practice at MVPC, the offering of pledge cards is a covenant between us and God, both as a community and as individuals.

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

### POSTLUDE

#### 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



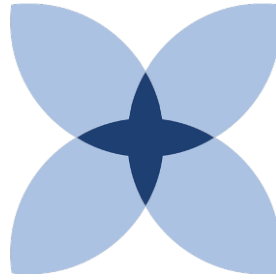
[mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org)

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

# MVPC Announcements....

**Zooming Thru the Carols!**  
**Write down your favorite carols.**

Sunday School  
9:30 - 10:15am



Connection  
10-10:25am

Worship  
10:30-11:30am

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**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:



**November 10** *"Planting Trees: The Cedars of Lebanon"*, 1 Kings 5:1-18, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

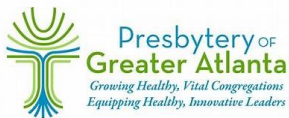
**November 17** *"Planting Trees: The Olive Tree"*, Matthew 25:3-10, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**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!

**Senior Adults:** Saturday, November 16. We'll carpool to Red Top Mountain in the morning, have lunch in Cartersville followed by a visit to the Booth Western Museum. Please sign up at the Seniors table on Sunday or contact Mary Lea Woods at [woods1166@yahoo.com](mailto:woods1166@yahoo.com) or 404.668.0151.

**Thanksgiving: New this year,** we would like to pair families celebrating Thanksgiving with church friends who might be alone that day. If you would be interested in hosting someone, or interested in being a guest, please sign up at the Seniors table on Sunday by Nov. 10.

Our **November Communion Offering** will continue one of our congregation's longest outreach traditions by collecting non-perishable food items for Stirred-Up Ministries. **We will Stuff the Bus on Sunday, November 17, so please bring your items by 10:00 AM that day.**



**November 3, 2024**



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

Giving



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.



**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:** It just takes a phone call or email to get connected with our Stephen Ministry. It offers you weekly encouragement, resources, comfort, and clarity. Help is dependable, confidential, and one-on-one. We look forward to helping you through rough patches. Contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader or a pastor to get started. 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](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

**Prayer Concerns:** Bob Addison, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Lorry Clark, Hazel Cofield, Mary Collins, Viola Crawford, Mike Damron, Gene Elder, Chitip Likitcharoen, Bruce Hagenau, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Corny Laube, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Maeve Ross, Chandler Shaefer, Katherine Slayback, Yvonne White, Ann Young, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Attendance:** 10/27 Outdoor Worship 96, Online 14

**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 30	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$436,657	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 55,156	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 22,469	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$514,282</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)