



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LESSONS & CAROLS
DECEMBER 22, 2024 • 10:30 AM

Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

† For those who are able, please stand.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

† **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #49**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Evelyn Abernethy, Soloist Verse 1

IRBY

This service is based on the Lessons and Carols service that originated at King’s College, Cambridge, UK. The service always opens with this hymn, and the choir director chooses a boy to serve as the soloist for verse one just prior to the start of the service. This gives the child seconds to come to terms that they will be singing before a television audience of millions.

SOLOIST

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

CONGREGATION

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, and He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** (*MVPC Members who live North of the Church-Roswell/
Alpharetta*)

CANDLELIGHTERS: Undeterred by the ever expanding city and the constant changes to Georgia-400, we come south each Sunday, trying not to miss our exit, to share in the love of God.

CONGREGATION: **We celebrate how you travel the southbound lanes so that together we can share in the love of Jesus Christ.**

CANDLELIGHTERS: We join our voices with the choirs of angels today, basking in a light of love that is only getting brighter.

CONGREGATION: **Light the candle of love to further reveal to us that the darkness cannot overcome it. Let us worship God!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Christmas Medley

Children's Bell Choir

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Ryan Sawyer

ANTHEM

"Every Valley"

arr. Joseph M. Martin

Chancel Choir

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Ryan Sawyer

HYMN #22

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: *(refrain)*

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star. *(refrain)*

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. *(refrain)*

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Bryce Cumming

HYMN #38 (v. 1,2,4)

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

THE FOURTH LESSON
HYMN #36 (v. 1,3,4)

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9
"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Bryce Cumming
Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

THE FIFTH LESSON
SOLO

Luke 1:26-35, 38
"Rejoice Greatly O Daughter of Zion"
Nichol Jacobs, Soloist

Ben Barber
G.F. Handel

THE SIXTH LESSON
ANTHEM

Luke 2:1-7
"Away in a Manger"
Chancel Choir

Ben Barber
CRADLE SONG

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Kate Christian

OFFERTORY

"Only at Christmastime"
Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Soloist

Sufjan Stevens

Handel was inspired by Zechariah 9:9, which refers to a prophetic message about the coming of a Messiah, humbly riding on a donkey, signifying peace and salvation.

We encourage you to listen to the lyrics Stevens employs. They speak to the sacred meaning of Christmas that he longs to share with society at large. As he says, "St. Nicholas was a philanthropic Catholic Saint, yet we've ended up with a cartoonish figure who breaks into people's houses. At Christmas there is the conflict between the spiritual and the campaign to buy more."

† **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** Jim Loth

THE EIGHTH LESSON **Matthew 2:1-11** Kate Christian
HYMN #66 (v. 1,2,5) "We Three Kings of Orient Are" THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

THE NINTH LESSON **John 1:1-14** Kyle Cumming
† **HYMN #29** "Go, Tell It On the Mountain" GO TELL IT

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *(refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *(refrain)*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *(refrain)*

† **BENEDICTION** Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE "Variations to Adeste Fideles" Raynor Taylor

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

Readers

Ben Barber
Kate Christian
Bryce Cumming
Kyle Cumming
Ryan Sawyer

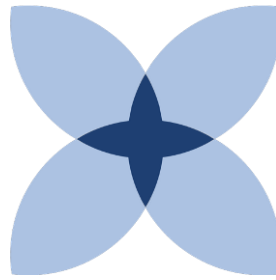
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:



December 24 Live Nativity - 4:30pm
Candlelight Service - 5:30pm, John 1:1-14, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

December 29 *"Who Gets to Decide That I Am Lost?"*, Luke 2:41-52, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

January 5, 2025 Epiphany of the Lord/Chalking of the Door, Matthew 2:1-12,
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: December 25-27, January 1, 2025. We will close at noon on December 24 and December 31.



Caroling Opportunity with MVPC! You are welcome to join us **TODAY** Sunday, December 22 at Mount Vernon Towers, 5pm



Family Promise: We will be hosting Family Promise families this week, **December 22-29**.



Lunch Bunch Please join Isaac and Shari for lunch after worship on **Sunday, December 29**.

December 22, 2024



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: Presbyterian Women enjoyed all of their Christmas activities. Next year, the **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, January 14. Sarah Chalpan will teach Lesson 5: Speaking Word of Lord, Huldah. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, January 10. Marion Satterfield will lead a review of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Presbyterian Women!



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: Christmas is a time of rejoicing for many and gathering family. But, for some, it is a painful reminder of loss, hurt, strained relations. Our Stephen Ministers are standing by to help you traverse a difficult time and walk with you through it and to help you as you seek new and different ways to seek reconciliation. Contact 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 her at 404.626.2432.

Prayer Concerns: Dee Bradford-Smith, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Jeanne Gilliland, Malinda Holmes, Helen Johnson, Kirt Lattanze, Corny Laube, Chitip Liticharoen, Kathryn Mackie, Chuck McCrory, Bill & Susan McLeish, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Freida Townsend, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Christian Sympathy for the family of Hazel Cofield who died on December 14. No arrangements have been made at this time.

Attendance: 12/15 Worship 99, Online 1

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

As of December 19	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$491,386	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 63,384	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 22,721	\$ 9,000
Total	\$577,491	\$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