

# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

† *For those who are able, please stand.*

Each year, we begin worship with the Epiphany House Blessing known as "Chalking the Door". This ritual began in Medieval Europe.

## GATHERING

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**"God of Wonders"**

Hindalong and Byrd

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

**CHALKING THE DOOR**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy & Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**Holy God, you have led many people to these doors. Some from near, some from far. Some with immediate needs, some with precious gifts. Some full of questions, some full of knowing. We ask your blessing on this ordinary bit of chalk that it may mark these doors as extraordinary. May these marks be a welcome invitation for all who are led here this year, and a constant prayer for the nourishment and safety of this sanctuary. Amen.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *(see insert)* **"We Three Kings of Orient Are"**

**THREE KINGS OF ORIENT**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

**OPENING PRAYER**

### † **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** Throughout the Christmas Season, we have come, undeterred, from the north, south, east, and west to bask in the light of Christ.

**ALL:** **This morning we follow in the footsteps of Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.**

**ONE:** As we offer our gifts to Christ our Lord by praising his holy name, let us take the gift he offers us back out into the world.

**ALL:** **Let us kneel before the one who has fallen so we can help them up; let us share our gold with those who can't make the mortgage payment or hospital bill.**

**ONE:** Let us start this year in the same spirit we ended the last one: in a spirit of gratitude for the neighbor down the street and the neighbor an ocean away.

**ALL:** **Let us worship God!**

† **OPENING HYMN #63**

**"As with Gladness Men of Old"**

**DIX**

*(see Blue Hymnal)*

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Abernethy

God of Light, as we put away the candles, the Chrismons, and the creches, let us not close off the spirit that this season has inspired. Too often, we feel compelled to cordon off Christmas hope and return to the grind of life. This competition of daily self-gratification and greed neglects the reason Jesus entered the world. Let us not slide back into these ways. Let us not forget this time. Let that light continue to shine within our hearts and illuminate our minds. Let us speak with the radiant imagery that beckoned the Magi to kneel - for they knew they were witnessing something and someone full of hope. Let that hope guide us in this new year so that Christ might move us as individuals and as a community of faith to be awestruck by Epiphany upon Epiphany. Let the reimagining of your world begin here, and let it begin with us! *(silent confession)*

***“Let There Be Peace on Earth”***

Methodist Hymnal

*(see insert)*

This song was written by Jill Jackson-Miller in 1955 and said this song helped her discover “the life-saving joy of God’s peace and unconditional love.”

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE *(see insert)*

**“Change My Heart, O God”**

*(Glory to God Hymnal)*

CHANGE MY HEART

STAR WORDS

Shari Freeman

*(All are invited to come forward to pick up a star on the Communion table.)*

† 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. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

HOMILY

*“Expectant”*

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Heidelberg Catechism)*

Why is he called “Christ,” meaning “anointed”?

**Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.**

### OFFERTORY

**“What Month was Jesus Born In?”**

VERA HALL

Mike & Kathy Havey

### † 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

David Hill

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Abernethy

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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 Elder will bring communion to you.)*

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

## SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#411)

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captives’ liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wind; God’s power will make us strong.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring“

J.S. Bach

Tomorrow concludes  
Christmastide, or the  
12 days of Christmas,  
may you continue to  
bear witness to the  
light of Christ even  
beyond these holy  
days!

### 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

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,  
go to the Visitor’s Table to pick up a visitor bag and a little gift.*

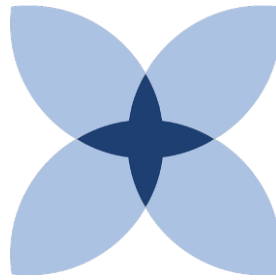
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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](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:



**January 12,** Baptism of the Lord, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, Baptism of Liam Qualls, Communion, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**January 19** *"Letter to American Christians", Romans 8:22-27*, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



**Men's Breakfast:** All men are invited on Sunday January 19 at 8:30am in the Kirk Center.



**Adult Sunday School:** there will be a combined class on Sunday, January 19 with CAC Executive Director, Francis Horton. Come learn/get an update about how CAC is supporting more than 10,00 people annually in Sandy Springs and Dunwoody.



MVPC is the CAC **Congregation of the Month**. Since they are our communion offering for the month, let's continue the Christmas spirit of giving and start 2025 off right!



**Presbyterian Women:** 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.

**January 5, 2025**



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



**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:** Stephen Ministers are here to walk through the weighty issues of life with you and help you with perspective, clarity, and focus as you make decisions about moving forward. Contact Pat Barte, 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, Helen Johnson, Kirt Lattanze, Corny Laube, Chitip Liticharoen, Karen Morine, 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. A service will be held on Sunday, January 26 at 2pm at Patterson’s Funeral Home in Sandy Springs.

Attendance 12/24      355, Online 7  
                         12/29      65, Online 22

<b>Dates for your calendar:</b>	
January 26	Ordination/Installation of Church Officers, 10:30am
February 2	Boy Scout Sunday, 10:30am
February 23	Youth/Young Adult Sunday, 10:30am, Annual Church Meeting and Brunch, 9am in Fellowship Hall

**Financial Update**

<b>As of December 30</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
Pledge Member Giving	\$495,706	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 63,484	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 22,811	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$582,001</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)