



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

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 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:
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