

## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

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

### GATHERING

#### RINGING OF THE BELLS

#### GATHERING MUSIC

#### "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"

Martin Smith

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Over the mountains and the sea your river runs with love for me

And I will open up my heart and let the Healer set me free

I'm happy to be in the truth

And I will daily lift my hands for I will always sing

Of when Your love came down yeah

I could sing of Your love forever (4x)

Oh I feel like dancing it's foolishness I know

But when the world has seen the light

They will dance with joy like we're dancing now

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

#### OPENING PRAYER

#### † CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In Christ, we are a new creation.

**ALL: Everything has been made new!**

ONE: We celebrate God's reconciling love for us.

**ALL: Everything has been made new!**

ONE: Through Christ we share in the righteousness of God.

**ALL: Everything has been made new! Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN (#304)

“Jesus Loves Me!” Anna Bartlett Warner

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain;

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago,  
Taking children on His knee, saying, “Let them come to Me.” (*refrain*)

Warner's lyrics first appeared as a poem in the 1860 novel *Say and Seal*. The tune was added in 1872 by William Batchelder Bradbury who also added the well-known refrain.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**O Holy One, we hear your words that we are a new creation and everything old has passed away. However, we confess that too often we like ourselves just the way we are and don't want to be made new. Too often we tightly hold on to the past, because letting go of past hurt, past wrong, and past pride, seems like more than we can handle. We confess that we cannot be made new alone, and your call is too important to be left undone any longer. We need you to come once again into our lives, to draw us close to you, to show us your love, to help us let go and move forward, and to remind us what it means to be your ambassadors. Lead us in the way of your new creation in our lives and our world, that we might be reconciled to you and one another in Jesus Christ our Lord ... (*silent confession*) ... Amen.**

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE

“Change My Heart, O God”

Eddie Espinosa

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.  
You are the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. 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.)*

As you Pass the Peace, Jill Hudson and Evie Abernethy will play “Heart and Soul” a popular song composed in 1938 by Hoagy Carmichael.

## THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**SCRIPTURE**

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

**HOMILY**

*"Reconciling Love"*

## RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Confession of 1967, Inclusion Language Version, 9.07*)

**In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"Pass It On"**

Kurt Kaiser

Mike & Kathy Havey

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Shari Freeman

**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.**

**OFFERTORY**

**"O Love"**

Elaine Hagenberg

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**

Joan Rownd

## SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#366)

“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

Paul Gerhardt

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;  
O knit my thankful heart to Thee, and reign without a rival there!  
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live, myself to Thee, entirely give.

O, grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but Thy pure love alone;  
O may Thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!  
All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

O love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;  
Care, anguish, sorrow melt away, where'er Thy healing beams arise.

O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire or seek, but Thee.

This hymn is filled with biblical references including Deuteronomy 6:5, Ephesians 3:13-19 and 2 Corinthians 12:9.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Jubilant Psalm”

Phil Lehenbauer

### 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**

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

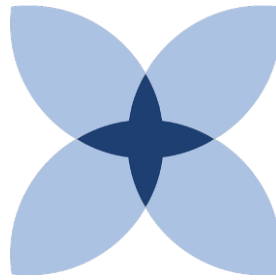
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:



- February 23** Children, Youth, and Young Adult Sunday, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
- February 25** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- March 2** "Shine, Moses, Shine", Exodus 34:29-35, Rev. Barrett Abernethy Preaching  
Burning the Palms
- March 5** Pancake Supper (5:30pm), Ash Wednesday Service (6:30pm), "Don't Be a Jerk: Jacob (and Rebekah?)" Rev. Barrett Abernethy Preaching



**Brunch & Annual Meeting:** Sunday, February 23, 9am in Fellowship Hall



**The February Communion Offering** is for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Clifton Sanctuary Ministry provides a transformational experience for unhoused men through comprehensive life skills training, purposeful and assertive case management, collaborative community partnerships, and dedicated volunteers. For more information, please go to <https://www.cliftonsanctuary.com/>.



**Lunch Bunch:** Join Isaac & Shari next Sunday, February 23 after worship at City BBQ

**February 16, 2025**



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

Giving



**Presbyterian Women:** The **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 11. Barbara Brooks will teach Lesson 7: *Confessions of Faith, Mary & Martha*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, March 14. Sarah Chalpan will lead a review of *The Women* by Kristen Hannah. **Circle of Grace** will meet TODAY, February 16 from 5:00-6:30pm at Shelly Ray's home . For more information, contact Lisa Cumming at lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com



**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:** Not only have Stephen Ministers had months of training in therapeutic listening and questioning and in depression and suicide prevention, grief and loss assistance, but they are very focused, themselves, on growing spiritually as helpers and channels of God's love. When a member or a friend in our community comes to us, they can know they will be heard and supported and, through the process, assisted in making their own good decisions to move forward. Is it instantaneous? No. It is a journey toward solution and wholeness. Please ask for the support you need by contacting 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 barbara@babrooks.com or call her at 404.422.5175.

**Prayer Concerns:** Lloyd Chama, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Corny Laube, Karen Morine, Jim Wingate, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Attendance 2/9:** 102, Online 22

**Dates for your calendar:**

Tuesdays in February: Towers Residents, join us for Vespers in the Sun Room, 6:30pm  
February 23 Annual Church Meeting and Brunch, 9am in Fellowship Hall

**Financial Update**

As of February 13	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 130,786	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 10,905	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 765	\$ 26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$142,456</b>	<b>\$586,000</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