

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 9, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Curious: What is one part of the service you find meaningful that you think often is overlooked by others on a Sunday?

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Beautiful"

Phil Wickham

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

I see Your face in ev'ry sunrise the colors of the morning are inside Your eyes
The world awakens in the light of the day I look up to the sky and say
You're beautiful

I see Your power in the moonlit night where planets are in motion and galaxies are bright
We are amazed in the light of the stars it's all proclaiming who You are
You're beautiful

I see You there hanging on a tree you bled and then You died
And then You rose again for me now You are sitting on Your heavenly throne
Soon we will be coming home you're beautiful

When we arrive at eternity's shore where death is just a memory and tears are no more
We'll enter in as the wedding bells ring your bride will come together and we'll sing
You're beautiful

I see Your face You're beautiful. You're beautiful You're beautiful

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We meet here in the presence of God.

ALL: **We gather to worship the Lord.**

ONE: As with Abraham and Sarah, God makes of us a great people.

ALL: **God's Holy name be praised.**

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

ALL: **And we respond with love for God and each other. Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN (#376)

“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

Charles Wesley

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

O Holy One, we hear the call to trust in you always, but some days our stresses and doubts are even more real to us than you, and trust is elusive. We remember how Abraham dared to believe in your promises and trust in your leading, but belief like that is hard to come by. We are often inclined to think, “God helps those who help themselves,” instead of daring to rely on the word of you, our Creator. When the world seems filled with dangers, we can be quick to protect ourselves, and we forget your promise to lead us and bless us. Strengthen our hearts to confront our fears and struggles. Give us courage to trust in your covenantal love. Renew us once again, so that we may live out your way of love ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

Ever wondered what “Amen” means? It means “so be it.” We offer this word to God in hopes that your prayer will ascend. How many “Amens” can you find within this bulletin?

† 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.

† 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.

SONG OF WELCOME (#498) "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

KINGDOM

(see Blue Hymnal)

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another. Afterwards the children are invited to Children's Church in the Chapel.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-9

HOMILY

"Covenantal Love"

The Prayer for Illumination could also be called the "Prayer for Light," for illumination hopes for enlightenment on the part of the hearer.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.3)*

God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRAYER 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

"Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"

William Walsham How &

Rebecca Shipley, Soloist

Everett Titcomb

† 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 Bob Addison

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#438) "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" John Fawcett

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

† BENEDICTION Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE "Hyfrydol" Phil Lehenbauer

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior 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.*

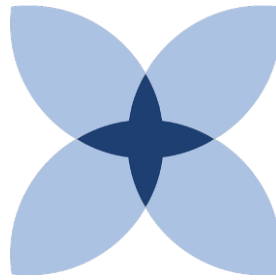
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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

MVPC Announcements....

Sunday School
9:30 - 10:15am



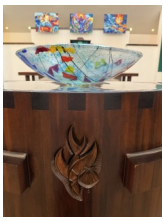
Connection
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!

Visitors & Membership: Please go to our website: mvpchurch.org, 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 16 "Reconciling Love", 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching

February 23 Children, Youth, and Young Adult Sunday, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



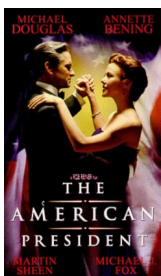
Brunch & Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 23, 9am in Fellowship Hall



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/>.



Small Groups: **It's not too late!** Please sign up in the Narthex.



Senior Adults: Join us this Saturday, February 15 at 1pm in the Session Room to watch "The American President" starring Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Popcorn, snacks, and beverages will be provided.

February 9, 2025



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



Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet on February 11. Pat Davis will teach Lesson 6: *Song of Blessing, Elizabeth & Mary*. The **Book Circle** will meet on February 14. Marion Satterfield will lead a review of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris, and Kathy Havey will lead a review of *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See.



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 newly trained and anxious to serve our congregation and community by walking with you through difficulties. We listen, let you unburden, encourage, help you clarify goals, remind you of scripture that moves you forward, offer resources, pray for and with you. A burden shared is lighter to carry! 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 barbara@babrooks.com or call her at 404.422.5175.

Prayer Concerns: Beth Abernethy, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Malinda Holmes, Corny Laube, Chitip Liticharoen, Karen Morine, Jim Wingate, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Attendance 2/2: 131, Online 25

Dates for your calendar:

Tuesdays in February: Towers Residents, join us for Vespers in the Sun Room, 6:30pm
 February 23 Youth/Young Adult Sunday, 10:30am; Annual Church Meeting and Brunch, 9am in Fellowship Hall
 March 5 Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper (5:30pm) and Service (6:30pm)

Financial Update

As of January 31	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 109,876	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 10,880	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 423	\$ 26,000
Total	\$121,179	\$586,000

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to debbie@mvpchurch.org