



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 16, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

† For those who are able, please stand.

## GATHERING

Matt Redman is a prolific Christian songwriter and performer with 10 Dove Awards and 2 Grammy Awards. *Blessed Be Your Name* received the 2005 Dove Award for Worship Song of the Year.

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### GATHERING MUSIC

**"Blessed Be Your Name"**

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name

*Text and Music: Beth and Matt Redman. © 2002 Thank You Music*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

David Barclift & Sue Loth

### OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Don't be a jerk like Sarah!

ALL: **I won't! I will extend grace, instead of harshness, to those named Hagar and everyone created in God's image!**

ONE: What is grace?

ALL: **It is the offering of unmerited love from one to another. It is the sacrificial love Christ gives for us through his living and his dying.**

ONE: Why do you think Christ shares this grace with us?

ALL: **Because he wants to walk this journey with us, and we want to walk with him, too. Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN (#363)

**“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”**

I want Jesus to walk with me; (Walk with me)  
I want Jesus to walk with me; (Walk with me)  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)  
In my trials, Lord, walk with me; (Walk with me)  
In my trials, Lord, walk with me; (Walk with me)  
When my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)  
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; (Walk with me)  
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; (Walk with me)  
When my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)

*Text and Music: African American Spiritual. Arr. Nolan Williams. © 2000 Gia Publications.*

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**Holy One, we come to you with many a contradiction. Sometimes we act with justice, and sometimes we act with jealousy. Sometimes we act with kindness, and sometimes we act with cruelty. And then sometimes we are humble, but then sometimes we are boastful. As we delve into your Word and hear the story of Sarah and Hagar, help us to see where the kindness gave way to the cruelty. Renew our hearts afresh so that we might extend grace and love instead of harshness and hate. Let us forgive Sarah and in turn forgive our friends when they are jerks to us, for they are called to do the same when we fall short and forget who we are and whose we are. For like Ishmael, we too, are children of God. Soften our hearts, and let us tell a new story of creation filled with justice, kindness, and humility. In your Holy Name, we pray ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.**

**This Confession is inspired by our reading, Genesis 16, and our Lenten Small Group author, the late President Jimmy Carter, who took the oath of office on a family Bible turned to Micah 6:8, “He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”**

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE (#85)

**“What Wondrous Love is This”**

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

*Text: American Folk Hymn. Music: Walker's Southern Harmony. © 1965 Abingdon Press.*

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*(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.)*

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shari Freeman

### SCRIPTURE

Genesis 16:1-16

### HOMILY

"Don't Be A Jerk: Sarah"

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from Ephesians 4:29-32)*

**Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Amen.**

**Ephesians 4:32, where Paul calls on the people to be kind to one another, was the favorite verse of the late President Jimmy Carter, whose book *Sources of Strength* we are studying during Lent.**

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

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

**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

"Wondrous Love"

Chancel Choir  
*Attributed to William Means*

### † DOXOLOGY

**"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

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.

*Text: Thomas Ken. Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Genevan Psalter.*

### † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Betsy Cozine

## SENDING

### † CLOSING HYMN (#372)      “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.  
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart,  
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart.  
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.  
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart

*Text and Music: African American Spiritual*

### † BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

### POSTLUDE

### “Come, Thou Almighty King”

*Music: Mark Hayes. Tune: Italian Hymn, Felice de Giardini.*

#### 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.*

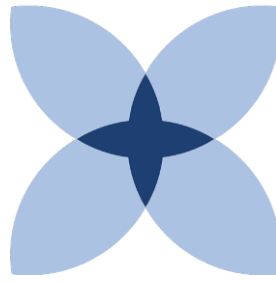
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:



- March 23**      *"Don't Be a Jerk: David,"* 1 Samuel 25:2-20, 23-28, 32-35,  
Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, Vice President & Dean, Columbia Theological  
Seminary, preaching
- March 25**      Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- March 30**      *"Don't Be a Jerk: Jonah,"* Jonah 4:1-11, Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching



**The March Communion Offering** is for the Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS) Student Food Pantry. Many CTS students, especially international students, do not have vehicles for easy transportation, so the food pantry is a great help. The food pantry is sponsored by the seminary, the Columbia Friendship Circle, and local congregations. For more information about CTS Student Life, please visit <https://www.ctsnet.edu/student-life/>



**Presbyterian Women:** The **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, April 8. Beth Abernethy will teach Lesson 8: *Testimony of an Apostle, Mary Magdalene*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, April 11. Mary Kilgore will lead a review of *The Art Forger* by B. A. Shapiro.



**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 Old Testament"*, Prof. Robert D. Miller, The Catholic University of America. Both classes meet at 9:30am. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.

**March 16, 2025**



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



Giving



**Stephen Ministry:** Are you wondering who it is that seeks help from a Stephen Minister? Since 2019, when this Stephen Ministry finished training, people from their late 20s to their 80s have come to our ministry. Some had been grieving for too long to be comfortable, some had lost jobs, some were dealing with a hard health issue. Others were going through some kind of transition, and one was dying. Some had multiple issues that had finally weighed them down. All have benefited from being listened to without judgment, having been given helpful resources and encouragement, and having been asked thought-provoking questions that allowed them to make good decisions. If this kind of help would assist you to move forward in your life, please 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](mailto:barbara@babrooks.com) or call her at 404.422.5175.

**Prayer Concerns:** Bob Addison, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Karen Morine, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

We mourn the death of **Cornelius (Corny) Laube**, who died on February 15. A Memorial Service will be held March 29 at 2pm at MVPC.

We mourn the death of **Jim Wingate**, our former Music Director, who died on March 1. The funeral will be Saturday, April 5 at 10am at Northminster Presbyterian Church.

**Attendance 3/9:** 83, Online 18

<u>Dates for your calendar:</u>	
April 13	Palm Sunday Worship & Luncheon (with Easter Egg Hunt)
April 14-18	Holy Week Worship Services, Daily at Noon
April 20	Sunrise Worship (6:45am), Sanctuary Worship (10:30am)

**Financial Update**

<b>As of March 13</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 158,006	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 11,307	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 1,136	\$ 26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$170,449</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](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)