



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

MARCH 2, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Why do we celebrate the Transfiguration prior to Lent? Because it marks the transition from Jesus' teaching ministry to his ministry in preparation for death. In Luke 9:51 Jesus speaks of how it is time to "turn his face toward Jerusalem."

## GATHERING

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### GATHERING MUSIC

### "Beautiful"

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

*Text and Music: Phil Wickham © 2007 Phil Wickham Music*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

John Allen

### OPENING PRAYER

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Moses covered his face with a cloth,

**ALL: But our faces are unmasked.**

ONE: Through Christ the veil is set aside,

**ALL: And we reflect the glory of God.**

ONE: Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

**ALL: We are being transformed into the image of Christ. Let us worship God!**

† **OPENING HYMN (#263)**

**“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, Thy great name we  
praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness  
and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small; in all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but naught changeth  
Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see 'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

*Text : Walter Smith. Music: Welch Folk Melody*

This hymn is inspired by 1 Timothy 1:17, and it plays on the tension that we at once cannot know God, yet at the same time our faith compels us to want to know who God is.

† **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Shari Freeman

**God of all Glory, Beauty, and Grace, we have tried to hide from you – to hide our faces, our thoughts, and our sin. Yet you have never hidden your love from us. We have tried to move separately from you – to ignore your words and go our own way. Yet you have always been present with us. We have tried to search for you - in temples, in clouds, and on mountaintops. Yet you have already revealed yourself to us in the face of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, and transform us so that our lives may shine with your Glory, Beauty and Grace ... (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”**

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.

*Text and Music: Eddie Espinosa © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing*

**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**

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

*(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)*

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 34:29-35

HOMILY

“Shine, Moses, Shine”

## RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Second Helvetic Confession, 5.085*)

The law of God is therefore abrogated to the extent that it no longer condemns us, nor works wrath in us. For we are under grace and not under the law. Moreover, Christ has fulfilled all the figures of the law. Hence, with the coming of the body, the shadows ceased, so that in Christ we now have the truth and all fullness. But yet we do not on that account contemptuously reject the law. For we remember the words of the Lord when he said: “I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfill them” We know that in the law is delivered to us the patterns of virtues and vices. We know that the written law when explained by the Gospel is useful to the Church, and that therefore its reading is not to be banished from the Church. For although Moses’ face was covered with a veil, yet the apostle says that the veil has been taken away and abolished by Christ.

OFFERTORY

“We Love to Tell the Story”

Chancel Choir

Erica Pirtle, Flutist

*Text : Nancy Price. Music: Don Besig*

† **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**

Mike Havey

**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** *(see insert)*

**“Shine, Jesus, Shine”**

*(During the final hymn, please follow Isaac and Shari out to the courtyard  
as we burn the palms.)*

**BURNING OF THE PALMS** *(see insert)*

† **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Abernethy

**POSTLUDE** *(see insert)*

**“Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes”**

The practice of Burning the Palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday dates back to at least the 6th Century, if not earlier. Hence, this practice is at least 1,500 years old.

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**

CCLI License #2404763

*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  
mvpchurch.org

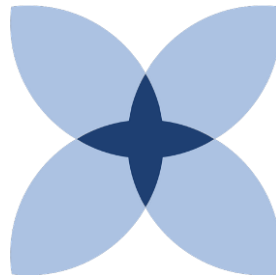


mvpchurch.org

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 5** Ash Wednesday & Pancake Supper (5:30pm), Service (6:30pm), *"Don't Be a Jerk: Jacob (and Rebekah?)"*, Genesis 27:1-29, Rev. Barrett Abernethy Preaching
- March 9** *"Don't Be a Jerk: Abraham"*, Genesis 12:10-20, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt preaching
- March 16** *"Don't Be a Jerk: Sarah"*, Genesis 16:1-16, Shari Freeman 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/>



**Senior Adults:** Join us to tour the Carter Presidential Library on Wednesday, March 12. Meet at the Sandy Springs Library parking lot closest to the church at 1:30pm to carpool. Everyone is welcome! Signup in the Narthex.

**March 2, 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.



**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.



**Stephen Ministry:** Talking with a trusted person who is non-judgmental and who will not be sharing your information with others provides for a major unburdening and frees one to begin seeing the way forward. It is a process and takes time to fully tell your story and be fully heard. Sometimes, families and well-meaning friends lack the listening skills and resources that a trained Stephen Minister can provide. If we can help, we want to. Please call Pat Bartee or a pastor to get connected. Leave a text message if we are unavailable, so we can call back.



**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, Diane Bumgarner, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Karen Morine, James Phillips, Jim Wingate, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Attendance 2/23:** 108, Online 20

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 DeDe Callahan who died on February 25. Arrangements are pending.

**Dates for your calendar:**

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**

As of February 27	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 146,698	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 11,107	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 902	\$ 26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$158,707</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)