



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 23, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

† For those who are able, please stand.

GATHERING

We encourage you to sing with Jonathan on the Chorus as we prepare our hearts to worship God.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"10,000 Reasons"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His Holy name. Sing like never before,
O my soul; I'll worship Your Holy name.

Authors: Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman. ©2011 Atlas Mountain Songs

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

Today, we are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill. Dr. Threadgill has been the VP and Dean, Student Formation and Campus Culture since 2022. She has served the PCUSA at both the parish level and the Office of the General Assembly where she wrote the Vital Congregations Initiative curriculum that has helped foster revitalization here at MVPC since we "returned" from the pandemic.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Our God of all Knowledge and Love knows the best and worst intentions of our hearts.

ALL: **We cannot hide our actions or disguise our desires from God.**

ONE: David and Nabal puffed up their chests, flexed their military might, and threatened to destroy one another.

ALL: **But Abigail moved quickly with acts of forgiveness and reconciliation.**

ONE: Every relationship offers us the chance to not be a jerk, in big and small ways.

ALL: **May we learn from David, Nabal, and Abigail. Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN (#387)

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor; early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

Text: Thrupp’s Hymns for the Young. Music: William Bradbury.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of Grace, forgive us for competition that spirals out of control. We arrive at a different solution than our neighbors, and we choose to escalate the conflict instead of seeking a way to reconcile with one another. We want to be right, and we are driven by the desire to justify our actions and opinions. Forgive us for ignoring the opportunities for reconciliation that appear in the midst of conflict. Nurture the bravery and courage within us, so, like Abigail, we extend an offering of peace to our neighbor ... (silent confession) ... Amen.

From Sources of Strength, by Jimmy Carter: “As Christians, we have a special responsibility to avoid letting resentment of others fester in us ... our resentment of others constitutes a barrier, not only between ourselves and them but between us and God.” (67)

† 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

Rev. Isaac 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.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 25:2-20, 23-28, 32-35

HOMILY

“Don’t Be A Jerk: David”

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from Confession of Belhar 10.3*)

We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: In that we love one another, that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another, and that we together know and bear one another’s burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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

“When?”

Chancel Choir

Text: Constance Cherry. Arranged: Jill Hudson

† 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, Geneva Psalter

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mary McClurg

Using the tune “Suo Gan”, a traditional Welsh Lullaby melody, “When?” is an arrangement of the words found in Hymn #401 of our pew hymnals, “When Will People Cease Their Fighting?”. Written by Constance Cherry in 1986, these words, questioning the stubborn will of people that cause the horrors of war, and exalting those who try to be instruments of peace, are just as relevant today.

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#386)

“O for a World”

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

Text: Miriam Winter. Music: Carl Haser. ©1990 Medical Mission Sisters.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Threadgill

POSTLUDE

“Let All Things Now Living”

Arr: Marvin Gaspard. Tune: ASH GROVE, Welsh Melody.

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, VP and Dean, Student Formation and Campus Culture

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care

Jill Hudson, Music Director

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician

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.*

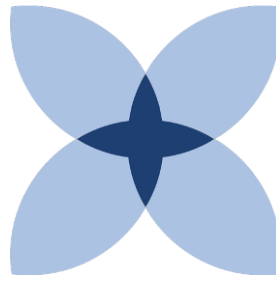
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:



- March 25** Taizé, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- March 30** "Don't Be a Jerk: Jonah," Jonah 4:1-11, Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching
- April 6** "Don't Be a Jerk: Paul," 1 Corinthians 11:1-9, 16, 14:34, Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching



Lunch Bunch: Join Isaac & Shari TODAY, March 23 after worship at City BBQ



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/>



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 9:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Book Sorting: Join us this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in Gailey Hall.



Men's Breakfast: All men are invited next Sunday, March 30 at 8:30 a.m. in the Kirk Center.

March 23, 2025



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



Giving



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.



Stephen Ministry: What kinds of events would propel me to seek help from a Stephen Minister? Losing a job, losing a baby, changing jobs or locations (moving) and feeling uneasy and alone, receiving a new health diagnosis of a chronic or terminal nature or learning how to manage one, grieving, divorcing, struggling with your faith, mid-life reassessment, later life reassessment, mild depression, plagued by a series of events, any loss that takes time to process and a needed plan to rebuild a life. Please contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get in touch. We are open to members and the community. Please refer friends to us.



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: Jeannie Chettleburgh, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Karen Morine, and the people of Clifton Sanctuary, 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 2 p.m. 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 10 a.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church.

Attendance 3/16: 83, Online 21

<u>Dates for your calendar:</u>	
April 13	Palm Sunday Worship & Luncheon (with Easter Egg Hunt)
April 14-16, 18	Holy Week Worship Services, Daily at Noon
April 17	Maundy Thursday Communion Service Sanctuary, 6:30pm
April 20	Sunrise Worship (6:45am), Sanctuary Worship (10:30am)

Financial Update

As of March 20	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 163,820	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 12,057	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 1,464	\$ 26,000
Total	\$177,341	\$ 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