



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 9, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Today is the first of six
Sundays between now and
Easter on April 20.
Throughout, we will walk
alongside stories of jerks in
the Bible, trusting that God
redeems them and us!

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Lord I lift Your name on high Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky Lord I lift Your name on high (2x)

Text and Music: Rick Founds. © 1989 Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Publishing

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

ALL: **And renew a steadfast spirit within us.**

ONE: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

ALL: **And teach transgressors to turn toward you.**

ONE: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

ALL: **Open my lips, and I will declare your praise. Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN (#371)

“Lift High the Cross”

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *(refrain)*

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. *(refrain)*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. *(refrain)*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. *(refrain)*

Text : George Kitchin. Music: Sydney Nicholson. © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of Abraham, in this season of Lent you call us to walk with Christ to the cross. Before we arrive at the cross, however, we are called to covenant with you, because you provide security, longevity, and blessed assurance for countless generations. Yet, like Abraham, we respond to this trust and love with skepticism and falsehoods, putting barriers between us. We put ourselves first. We hurt our neighbors and loved ones, and we put them in harm's way. We cause chaos and sow division between communities. We contribute to the brokenness of this world while you covenant to make this world whole.

Forgive us, Great Redeemer. Inspire us to lead with love and selflessness. To shed the stain of sin this season and arise anew when the Easter dawn beckons ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† 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

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18

HOMILY

"Don't Be A Jerk: Abraham"

For the Biblically curious: a third version of this story is found in Genesis 26.

RESPONSE

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

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.

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

"Ave Verum"

Chancel Choir
Text and Music: W.A. Mozart

† 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

Penny Kiel

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (*see insert*) **“When We All Get to Heaven”**

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune in F Major”

This was Jimmy
Carter's favorite
hymn.

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

Music: Michael McCabe

Leading Today's Worship Service

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.*

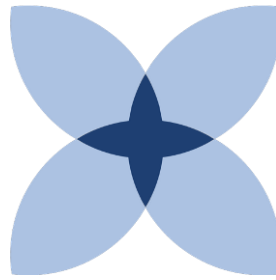
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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, 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 16** *"Don't Be a Jerk: Sarah"*, Genesis 16:1-16, Shari Freeman preaching
- March 23** *"Don't Be a Jerk: David"*, 1 Samuel 25, Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, Vice President & Dean, Columbia Theological Seminary, preaching
- March 25** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary



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 this coming Tuesday, March 11. Barbara Brooks will teach Lesson 7: *Confessions of Faith, Mary & Martha*. The **Book Circle** will meet this coming 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.

March 9, 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 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

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. The funeral will be Saturday, March 15 at 2pm at MPVC.

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.

Congratulations to Andrew & Ali Mearns on the birth of George Brian Mearns on February 20. Proud grandparents are Brian and Allison Eustis. The rose on the alter is in his honor.

Attendance 3/2: 90, Online 18

Ash Wednesday: 60



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 March 6	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 152,316	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 11,307	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 1,004	\$ 26,000
Total	\$164,627	\$ 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