



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

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

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN #123 (*see insert*)

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Jesus rides triumphantly into Jerusalem,

ALL: Ushering in the Kingdom of God.

ONE: Then he curses the fig tree and overturns the tables.

ALL: Was Jesus being a jerk?

ONE: No, he was challenging the centrality of the temple,

ALL: And reminding us that he dwells with us everywhere.

ONE: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord,

ALL: Hosanna in the highest! Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN (#89)

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed ‘mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven ride on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” that ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice.

Hosanna has a double meaning. On the one hand, it means “save us,” or a plea for help. It can also mean a cry for praise. Throughout this service you will likely see the word used interchangeably.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of the Hosanna, like those gathered along the Palm Sunday Road, we wave our leafy branches and celebrate the arrival of Jesus. However, like those along the road that day, we too often fail to understand his message and ministry. Jesus overturned the tables in the temple, yet we cling to our buildings and hesitate to turn our beliefs into action in the world. Jesus overcomes the law, yet we hold tightly to our religious rituals and fail to live in the freedom of God's love and grace. Jesus invites us to take up our cross and follow him, yet we hold back, reluctant to move our lives in his direction. Forgive us for our limited understanding of Jesus, and give us eyes to see our savior as the one who truly does overcome the world ...
(silent confession) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE

"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 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.)*

"Hosanna! Hosanna!"

Jesus rode into Jerusalem.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
All the people sang their praise to him.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Came to town upon a donkey's back;
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Seemed so lowly but he's Lord in fact.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna! Hear the people say.
Hosanna! Save us today.
Hosanna! It's a faithful song.
Hosanna! Sing it all day long!

Text & Music: Cathy Townley. ©1993 Abingdon Press

† **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

Mark 11:1-17

HOMILY

“Don’t Be A Jerk: Jesus”

RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from the Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language Text, 9.08)*

We believe that in Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared human needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. In giving himself for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. We believe that God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

The most questionable behavior of Jesus in the gospels is found in Matthew 15:26 when Jesus calls the Canaanite woman a “dog.”

When we say Jesus was a “Palestinian Jew,” we are not talking about a modern location. Rather, the word “Palestine” and the region it designates predates Roman imperialism. Herodotus, the Greek “father of history” used the term in 425 B.C. This was long before the life of Christ.

OFFERTORY

“My Eternal King”

Chancel Choir
Arr. Jane Marshall

† **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**

Sophie Galen & Htet Nyunt

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.)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"

Rebecca Shipley
Text and Music: G.F. Handel

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN *(see insert)*

"Shout to the Lord"

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

Arr. Phil Lehenbauer

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, 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.*

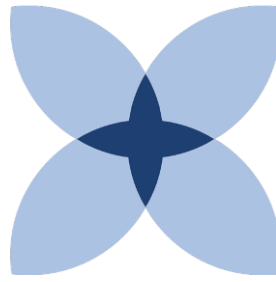
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328
mvpchurch.org



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, 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:



- April 14-16, 18** Holy Week/Good Friday Services at Noon, lunch afterward
- April 17** Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
- April 20** Easter Sunrise (6:45 a.m.), Sanctuary Worship (10:30 a.m.)
- April 22** Taizé, 7pm, Sanctuary

Flower Cross: bring your flowers next Sunday to help decorate the cross!



Our **April Communion Offering** is for the Community Assistance Center Food Pantry. This month, we are focusing on items for summer lunches and diapers. CAC provides basic needs assistance for Dunwoody and Sandy Springs neighbors to prevent homelessness and hunger while promoting self-sufficiency and empowering them to thrive.



Arabia Mountain: Saturday, April 12 we will meet in the church parking lot to carpool to Arabia Mountain, just 33 miles from the church. All are welcome to join us for exploring, sitting or hiking. The sign-up will close TODAY.



Fun and Games: Meet in Gailey Hall at 1:30pm after the Holy Week service and lunch.



"Come See Columbia Day" April 24 – All are welcome to meet us in the Sandy Springs Library at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to Columbia Theological Seminary for a full day of food, worship, study and touring! **Today is the last day to sign up!**



Mail Delivery: We are experiencing delays in receiving mail. Please update your records to our P.O. Box: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358

April 13, 2025



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



Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, May 13. Sarah Chalpan will teach Lesson 9: *The Sound of Silence, Lydia and Philippi Slave Girl*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, May 9. Beth Abernethy will lead a review of *Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear.



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.



Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministers are available to help you through a difficult time. We listen, we encourage, we ask questions to help you clarify your situation and goals, and can provide resources you may not know about. Please contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get started.



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: Keith Bumgarner, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Lorry Clark, Mike Damron, Alma Dowdakin, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Karen Morine, Harry Nelson, and the people of Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Attendance 4/6: 76, Online 19

Dates for your calendar:

| | |
|----------|---|
| April 27 | Outdoor Worship; Earth-Care Sunday |
| May 11 | Outdoor Worship; Celebrating High School Seniors and Mother's Day |

Financial Update

| As of April 10 | Actual YTD | 2025 Budget |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Pledge Member Giving | \$ 202,702 | \$500,000 |
| Member Giving Non-Pledge | \$ 14,510 | \$ 60,000 |
| Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering | \$ 1,718 | \$ 26,000 |
| Total | \$218,930 | \$ 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