



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 20, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

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

## GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

**“Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”**

Brass Ensemble

**“Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (#123)

**“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: An angel of the Lord has rolled the stone away, and the tomb is empty!

ALL: **The guards were frozen in terror, but the women felt a spark of joy.**

ONE: The angel sent the women out to spread the Good News that Jesus is risen!

ALL: **With joy in their hearts, and a few nerves, they ran to tell the rest of the disciples.**

ONE: We join them, today, with full hearts (and a few nerves) to celebrate the resurrection.

ALL: **Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN (#122)

**“Thine Is the Glory”**

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors through Thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

The Trumpet Fanfare at the beginning of this piece was written by the late MVPC organist, Dr. Dennis G. Stabler, for the inaugural playing of the Trompette en Chamade on Easter Sunday, 1994.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of New Life and Resurrection, your first words to the women at your tomb were: *don't be afraid*. This call to peace and wholeness in you still rings out this Easter morning. Don't be afraid of what is hard to understand. Don't be afraid of all that moves and changes. Don't be afraid of the lowest moments or the darkest nights. Don't be afraid of living in this world and in eternity. But, we must confess that we often let fear take hold in us, in our relationships, and in our work. Like the guards at the tomb, we are often frozen in our fear rather than active in our joy. Nourish us with your constant presence and compassion, so that we are empowered to spread the Good News of New Life in you. May hopeful joy flourish within us as we become messengers of your love in this world ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE (#106)

**"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"**

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

*Text and Music: Donald Fishel. ©1973 International Liturgy Publications.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

*(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward for storytelling and prayer.)*

† 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

Matthew 27:45-54; 28:1-10

HOMILY

"Earthquake"

When you go home, read the different Easter stories, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-18. Along with Matthew's passage make a chart on how the four differ, who was there, and what is similar between the stories.

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### OFFERTORY

#### “Christ Our Passover”

Chancel Choir

Nathan Abernethy, Nichol Jacobs, Anthony Menardi, Laurie Swann     Solo Quartet

*Words & Music: Will C. Macfarlane*

### † 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

Mary Lea Woods

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Shari Freeman

MVPC observes an “open table” policy, meaning all are welcome, if they desire, to come forward and receive the sacrament.

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

#### “If God Be For Us”

Nichol Jacobs

*G.F. Handel*

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

## SENDING

### † CLOSING HYMN (#464)

### “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

*Text: Henry Van Dyke. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven*

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

*(Please remain in your pew through the Choral Benediction.)*

### CHORAL BENEDICTION

### “Hallelujah Chorus”

*Text and Music: G.F. Handel*

### POSTLUDE

### “Prelude in Classic Style”

*Music: Gordon Young*

#### 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**

#### Brass Ensemble

**James Gabriel**, Trumpet

**Dan Howard**, Trumpet

**Sean Mack**, Trombone

**Parker Borden**, Tuba

*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

# Hallelujah Chorus

CONGREGATION PART

Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16

MESSIAH

George Frideric Handel (1685–1750)

Setting by HAL H. HOPSON

**Introduction**  
(Keyboard)

**CONGREGATION (Unison voices)**  
*f* Hal - le - lu-jah! Hal - le-lu-jah! Hal-le-

6  
lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal - le - lu-jah! Hal - le-lu-jah! Hal - le-lu-jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-

11  
le - lu-jah! *mf* for the Lord God Om-nip - o-tent reign - eth. **A** *f* Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-

16  
lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! *mf* for the Lord God Om-nip - o-tent reign-eth. *f* Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-

21  
lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! **B** **12** **C** **7** **D** **10**  
For the Lord God Omnipotent The Kingdom of this world and He shall reign for ever  
reigneth. Hallelujah. is become the kingdom of and ever.  
our Lord and of His Christ;

**E** *mf* King of Kings, \_\_\_\_\_ and Lord of Lords, \_\_\_\_\_ King of Kings, \_\_\_\_\_

60  
and Lord of Lords, \_\_\_\_\_ *f* King of Kings, \_\_\_\_\_ and Lord of Lords, \_\_\_\_\_ **F**

68  
\_\_\_\_\_ and Lord of Lords, **11** **G** *f* and He shall reign for ever and ever, King of Kings, and Lord of Kings, and Lord of  
of Lords, Hallelujah, of Lords, \_\_\_\_\_

83  
Lords, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and He shall reign for ev - er and ev - er. King of

89  
Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal - le - lu - jah! *ff*



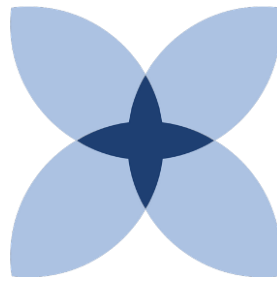
## Easter Lilies 2025

*The following people have presented lilies to decorate the Sanctuary  
in honor or loving memory of those listed beside their names.*

Barrett, Braegan, Evie Abernethy	In honor of the congregation of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
Bob Addison	In memory of Ann Addison
Dee Bradford-Smith	In memory of Marcia Bradford Hutchinson
John & Meg Christian	In memory of John Robert Christian III, Dr. William R. Barron
Pat Davis	In memory of Gregory Allen Davis, Allen & Mary Elizabeth Summerville
Mark Fifield	In honor of Ann O'Hara In memory of William O'Hara, Carl & June Fifield
Richard & Shari Freeman	In memory of Thomas Chettleburgh, Daniel Freeman
Mike & Gloria Gillespie	In memory of our family saints, parents, Pam, Woody, Mo
Jeanne Gilliland	In memory of Hazel Cofield
Charlie & Lisa Gray	In memory of Warren & Josephine Gray, William & Mary Ann Parker
Bruce & Wendy Hagenau	In honor of Jeanne Hagenau In memory of Norma McMinn, Karl Hagenau
George Hammett	In memory of Jenny Hammett
Wright Hardy	In honor of loved ones
David & Christy Hill	In memory of Ed & Hilda Hill, Tarver & Margie McAfee
Malinda Holmes	In memory of Bob Holmes
Jill Hudson	In honor of the choir
Cathy Jenkins	In memory of Doug & Polly Jenkins
Penny Kiel	In memory of Tom Nolan, Richard Kiel
Katherine Koops	In memory of Elton & Joyce Koops
Geoff & Robyn Malcolm	In memory of Harry & Irene Nelson
Sam & Mary McClurg	In memory of our family
Bruce, Laura, Sarah, & Julia Northrop	In memory of Mort & Bev Northrop, Fleming & Kay Vinson
Joey Noszek	In memory of my mother, Bonnie Noszek
Laurie Swann	In memory of Donna Jane Kilgore
Ed Taylor	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Taylor
Toney-Schmitt Family	In memory of Laurel Schmitt
Barbara Wasson	In memory of Jim & Sandra Harbuck
Mary Lea Woods	In memory of Karen Damron, Virginia Woods
Angie Yeremian	In memory of Xen Lee McCord

# MVPC Announcements . . .

Sunday School  
9:30 - 10:15am



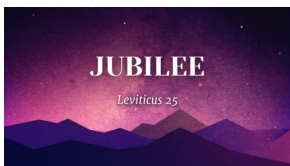
Connection  
10-10:25am

Worship

**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:



- April 22** Taizé, 7pm, Sanctuary
- April 27** Outdoor Service: "Jubilee", Leviticus 25:1-7, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
- May 4** "May the Force Be With You", Acts 1:6-11, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



**Church Office Closed** Monday, April 21.



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.



**"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!



**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



If you missed any of our Holy Week Services, you can always go online to see previous services on our website at [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org), under the Worship tab.

**April 20, 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](mailto: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, Carolina Kirby-Smith, Karen Morine, and the people of Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy to the family of Harry Nelson (father of Martha Baitcher and Andy Nelson) who died on April 13. Arrangements are pending.

**Attendance 4/13:** 104, Online 10

<u>Dates for your calendar:</u>	
<b>May 4</b>	Lunch Bunch at City BBQ following Worship
<b>May 11</b>	Outdoor Worship; Celebrating High School Seniors and Mother's Day

**Financial Update**

<b>As of April 17</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 205,569	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 15,310	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 1,760	\$ 26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$222,639</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)