



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EARTH CARE SUNDAY/OUTDOOR SERVICE
APRIL 27, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Welcome to our 1st outdoor worship service in 2025. Each year we do 4 of these (weather permitting); April 27: Earth-Care
May 11: Mother's Day; Senior Recognition
Sept. 28: Blessing of the Animals
Oct. 26: All Saints' Day; Bagpipes

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Blessed Be Your Name"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your glorious name

We encourage you to sing along to the gathering song as we prepare our hearts to worship God!

Text and Music: Matt Redman. © Thank You Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: The Lord said,

ALL: For six years you shall sow your field, prune your vineyard, and gather the yield.

ONE: But on the seventh year,

ALL: There shall be a sabbath rest for the land; do not sow, do not prune, and do not gather.

ONE: As we are called to give ourselves rest, let us extend rest to God's creation.

ALL: Let us be a witness to the bright and beautiful of this world as we worship God!

† OPENING HYMN (# 267)

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings:
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. *(refrain)*

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning That brightens up the sky, *(refrain)*

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. *(refrain)*

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. *(refrain)*

Text: Cecil Alexander. Music: Martin Shaw. ©1983 The Hymnbook.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Rest, we confess that we come to you mired in conflict and contradiction. On the one hand we celebrate your earth and the bounty you provide. On the other hand, we know we have overused your land and pillaged the resources you have generously bestowed upon us. We know this drilling and tilling has been a source of great prosperity and allowed millions, if not billions, of people to enjoy a better quality of life. Yet we also wonder how this destruction will hurt the present and future generations. Help us to be better stewards of the land. Show us how the gift of rest can be a source of peace to your land and a source of quality to our lives. For with each wildfire that flames, each hurricane that roars, and each foot of water that ascends, lives are shattered. Help us to hear your creation as it cries out to us and help us to respond with the resurrectional hope of New Life guiding our prayer and our actions. In your Holy Name, we lift up your bountiful creation ... *(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

(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. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 25:1-7

HOMILY

"Generation Next"

Pope Francis spoke prophetically for how we should care for the earth. He compared the earth to a sister crying out because of the harm we have inflicted on her. To learn more, read his *Laudato Si'* from 2015

RESPONSE

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

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments. we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

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

"The Spruce"

Ryan Sawyer

Five Pieces by Jean Sibelius

† DOXOLOGY (#220)

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell, Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Text: William Kethe. Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pat Bartee

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#272)

“God of the Sparrow”

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe, How does the creature say Praise.

God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe, How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace, How does the creature say Thanks.

God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care, How does the creature say Life,

God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love, How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy, How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav Vajada. Music: Carl Schalk. ©1983 G.I.A. Publications

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Decorations”

Ryan Sawyer
By John Ireland.

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care

Ryan Sawyer, Guest Musician

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.*

Save the Date!
On June 8 (time TBD) we will celebrate the ordination of Shari Freeman here at MVPC. Mark your calendars as we give thanks to God for Shari and her gifts for ministry.

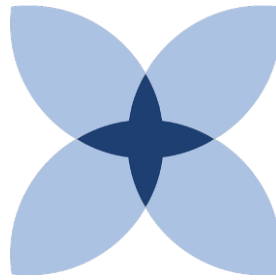
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:



May 4

"May the Force Be With You", Acts 1:6-11, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

May 11

Outdoor Service, *"Rejoice with Me"*, Luke 15:8-10, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Celebration of High School Seniors & Mother's Day, and Baptism of Mackenzie Hagenau.



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.



Senior Adult Movie Matinee will be Saturday, May 10 at 1pm in the Session Room. All are invited to come and enjoy this classic movie, have some popcorn, and beverages!

DRIVING MISS DAISY

LUNCH BUNCH

Join Isaac and Shari next Sunday, May 4 for lunch at City BBQ after worship.



Mail Delivery: We are experiencing delays in receiving mail. If you send anything to the church, please update your records to: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358

If you missed any of our **Holy Week or Easter services**, you can always go online to watch previous services on our website at mvpchurch.org, under the Worship tab.

April 27, 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: Listening acutely and asking questions based only on what was heard are the transforming skills our Stephen Ministers have to share with members and their friends when trouble arises. Please utilize this group. 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, Alma Dowdakin, Joann Egan, 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. Service will be May 2 in Florida.

We celebrate the birth of Alma Dowdakin's great-grandson, Griffin Nolan-Ingram born to Tristam & Laurel Nolan-Ingram.

Attendance 4/20: Sunrise: 40
10:30: 224
Online: 40

<u>Dates for your calendar:</u>	
June 8	Ordination Service for Shari Freeman, Time TBD
June 22	Los Niños Primero Sunday, 10:30am

Financial Update

As of April 24	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 213,969	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 16,412	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 2,346	\$ 26,000
Total	\$232,727	\$ 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

Leviticus 25:1-7

The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a sabbath for the Lord. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. You may eat what the land yields during its sabbath – you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound laborers who live with you; for your livestock also and for the wild animals in your land all its yield shall be for food.