



# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

APRIL 6, 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 As You Are"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

#### Chorus

(So) lay down your burdens, lay down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home you're not that far  
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.

Join Jonathan in song as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*Authors: Ben Glover, David Crowder, Matt Maher. ©2014 Ariose Music.*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### OPENING PRAYER

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are all created in the image of God,

ALL: **And reflect the diversity of God's Kingdom.**

ONE: There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female.

ALL: **For we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

ONE: We are all inspired by the same Spirit,

ALL: **And with our uncovered faces we reflect God's glory. Let us worship God!**

This Call to Worship is inspired by Galatians 3:27-29, also written by Paul. It is an expression of the boundless nature of the body of Christ.

† OPENING HYMN (#482)

**“Praise Ye The Lord”**

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

*Text: Joachim Neander. Music: Stralsund Erneueren Gesangbuch.*

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

**Loving God, how quick we are to focus on our differences. We separate ourselves from others based on gender, age, ethnicity, social status, and too many other categories. We seek to elevate ourselves and those like us over others who are different. We judge the value of others' contributions based on arbitrary characteristics. Yet, you invite us to see each other as created in your image. You call us to celebrate our diversity while at the same time seeking unity as your one, perfect body. You encourage us to lift up and value the unique contributions of every person in our congregation, in our community, and in your Kingdom. Give us hearts and minds to see others as you do and to support one another in offering our unique gifts to you ... (silent confession) ... Amen.**

The PC(USA) has the following in the Book of Order “The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the church’s members.” (F-1.0404)

† 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. Abernethy

**SCRIPTURE**

1 Corinthians 11:2-9, 16; 14:34

**HOMILY**

“Don’t Be A Jerk: Paul”

**RESPONSE**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Nicene Creed - Ecumenical)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

**“Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child”**

Kathy Havey, Soloist

*Arr. Moses Hogan*

† **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**

Ann Dillion

**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.**

## PRAYERS 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.)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

### SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN *(see insert)*

**"For Everyone Born"**

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

**"Strong Deliverer"**

*Arr. By Phil Lehenbauer*

This song is a challenge to the church, who will we welcome? Particularly the call to welcome "the abuser." For some this is a bridge too far, and we must respect our neighbor's pain. Yet how do we also reconcile and welcome the sinful. This song invites us into the struggle of a hope that is hard to imagine.

### 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.*

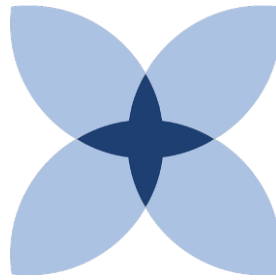
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



Our mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 76051  
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

# MVPC Announcements....

Sunday School  
9:30 - 10:15am



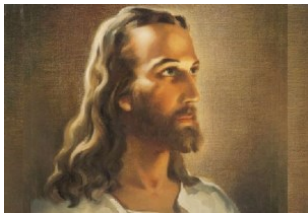
Connection  
10-10:25am

Worship  
10:30-11:30am

**Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!**

**Visitors & Membership:** Please go to our website: [mvpchurch.org](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 13**            *"Don't Be a Jerk: Jesus,"* Mark 11:1-17, Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching  
Palm Sunday Worship & Luncheon (with Easter Egg Hunt)
- April 14-16, 18**    Holy Week 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.)



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.



**Book Sorting:** Today we will be meeting in Gailey Hall at 4:30 p.m. to sort books for Sandy Springs Education Force. All are welcome!



**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.



**"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!



**Congratulations** to Adam & Devin Hill on the birth of their first daughter, Norah Deming Hill on February 11. Proud grandparents are David and Christy Hill. The rose on the altar is in her honor.

**April 6, 2025**



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



**Mail Delivery:** We are experiencing delays in receiving mail. Please update your records to our P.O. Box where we have no delays: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358



**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.



**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, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Karen Morine, Henry Nelson, and the people of Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Attendance 3/30:** 77, Online 19

| <u>Dates for your calendar:</u> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| April 27                        | Outdoor Worship; Earth-Care Sunday                                |
| May 11                          | Outdoor Worship; Celebrating High School Seniors and Mother's Day |

### Financial Update

| As of March 27                        | Actual YTD       | 2025 Budget       |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Pledge Member Giving                  | \$ 187,841       | \$500,000         |
| Member Giving Non-Pledge              | \$ 13,710        | \$ 60,000         |
| Non-Member Giving &<br>Loose Offering | \$ 1,604         | \$ 26,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>\$203,155</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)