



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - OUTDOOR
MAY 11, 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

"Psalm 139"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Look to the sky; look to the ground; look to the trees; look to your neighbor; Do you see God?

ALL: **I see God everywhere I look!**

ONE: Does God look like the white of the clouds? The blue of the sky? Does God feel like the texture of astro-turf underfoot or sound like the rumble of cars?

ALL: **God looks like, feels like, and sounds like all of those things!**

ONE: Can we hem God in or pin God down to any one point this morning?

ALL: **Probably not. But, we can enter into God through our worship. Let us worship God!**

† **OPENING HYMN** (*next page*)

"When Morning Guilds The Sky"

When Morning Gilds the Skies

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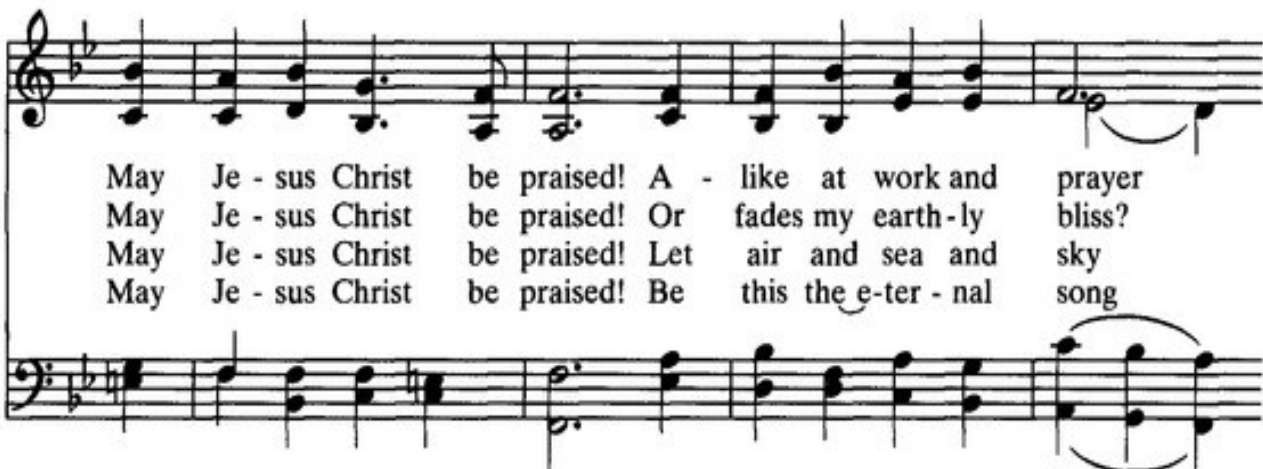
German hymn, c. 1800

Trans. Edward Caswall, 1853, 1858; alt.

Joseph Barnby, 1868



1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find:
 3. Let earth's wide cir - cle round In joy - ful notes re - sound:
 4. Be this, while life is mine, My can - ti - cle di - vine:



May Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song



To Je - sus I re - pair: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 My com - fort still is this: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 From depth to height re - ply: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 Through all the a - ges long: May Je - sus Christ be praised!

† PRAYER OF THANKS FOR MOTHERS

Shari Freeman

Holy One, who gathers us as a mother bear gathers her cubs. We give thanks for your goodness and mercy toward us. We are grateful for your loving kindness and care for your children through the ages. We thank you for your protection and correction when we drift away.

In culture and in the church, we celebrate and give thanks for mothers — mothers who reflect your continuous care and teaching. We are grateful for their role in our lives and ask that you sustain in these difficult times all who mother. For those who try to keep their children safe, educated and engaged in new ways, we ask for energy and imagination to do that work. For those who have always had to mother in difficult circumstances, we ask for provision.

We thank you for those who inspire, who give, who love, who teach, who nurture, who challenge and who make the world better through all forms of caring for another. We thank you for those who step in as chosen family to people without access to their families of birth. We thank you for those who adopt others, whether formally or informally. We remember Jesus' admonition that whoever does the will of God is his mother, brother, sister, sibling. Help us, O God, to be your family in all the ways you have imagined for us. ... Amen.

Excerpt from
Rev. Denise
Anderson's
(Coordinator of
Racial
Intercultural
Justice;
Compassion,
Peace & Justice;
Presbyterian
Mission Agency)
prayer published
on the PC(USA)
website in
September
2020.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are thankful for all those who mother.

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Mackenzie Elizabeth Hagenau

Rev. Abernethy

PRESENTATION

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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

LAYING ON OF HANDS

† HYMN OF WELCOME

“O, Loving Father, To Thy Care”

O WALY WALY

O loving Father, to thy care we give again this child of thine,
 Baptized and blessed with faithful prayer and sealed with Love’s victorious sign.
 As Christ, thy Son, did not refuse the homage of the children’s cry,
 So teach him childhood’s gifts to use thy name to praise and magnify.
 Through youth and age, through shine and shade, grant them to run their earthly race,
 Forgetting not that we were made to show thy glory and thy grace:
 A loving child, a faithful friend, a light in doubt and darkness given
 to point the path that knows no end save in the fuller light of heaven.

Sung to the tune of “O Waly Waly” which many know as the hymn “Though I May Speak,” speaks of the baptismal vow churches commit when they declare that they will raise the next generation to know Christ.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another. The children are invited to Children’s Church in the Chapel.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:8-10

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

HOMILY

“Call Collect”

Worship is often the only time a church fully gathers throughout the week. What this means is that the vast majority of ministry is a ministry “of ones and twos.” It’s learning stories, sitting with someone, and witnessing the power of the Holy Spirit flow through relationships. The parable of the lost coin embodies this truth.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from The Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language Version 9.21-9.22)*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace. Amen.

SENIOR RECOGNITION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

High School Seniors

Sage Allen	Atlanta International School	University of Georgia
Anna Barber	St. Pius X	Georgia College & State University
Mia Neumann	Walton High School	Ringling College of Art & Design
Nathan Peji	IMG Academy	Aurora University
Jack Riordan	Chamblee High School	University of Georgia

College Seniors

Bryce Cumming	University of Georgia
Gill Christian	Appalachian State
Charlie Hale	High Point University
Will Hudson	Emory University
Megan Murphy	University of Georgia (Dec. '24)
Emma Plumly	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Grace Sawyer	University of California, Los Angeles
Sammy Sawyer	Duke Law (J.D.)
Jack Sims	University of Georgia
Zack Van Putten	University of Georgia
Devin Wade	Georgia Tech

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

OFFERTORY

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

Kathy Havey, Soloist

Music: H. Percy Smith. ©1993 Abingdon Press

† 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

Bruce & Wendy Hagenau

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Wonderful Words of Life"

Words: Philip Bliss. Arr. James Koerts.

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN *(next page)*

"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care

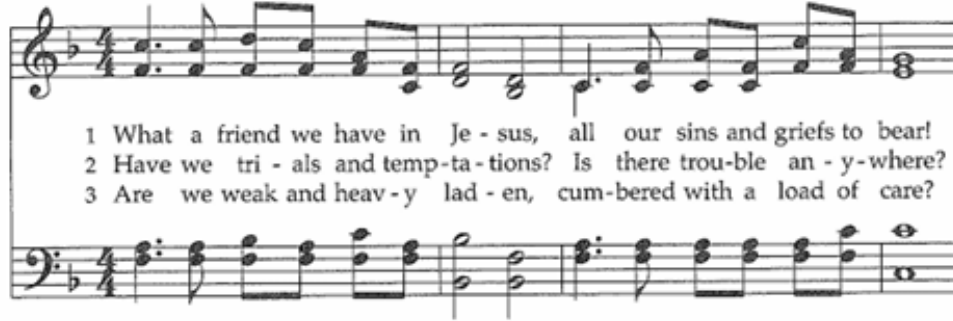
Jill Hudson, Music Director

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician

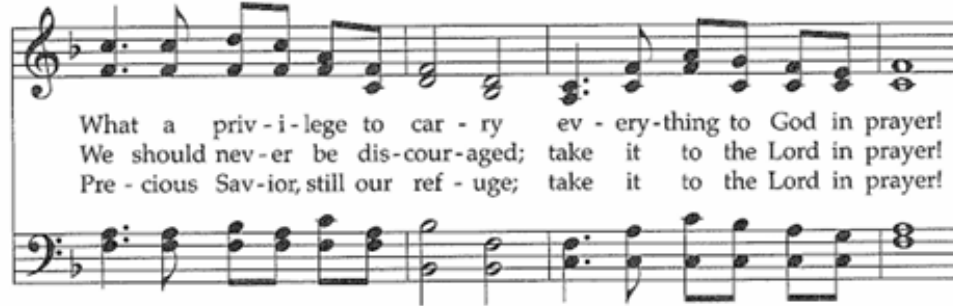
*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,
go to the Visitor's Table to pick up a visitor bag and a little gift.*

465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

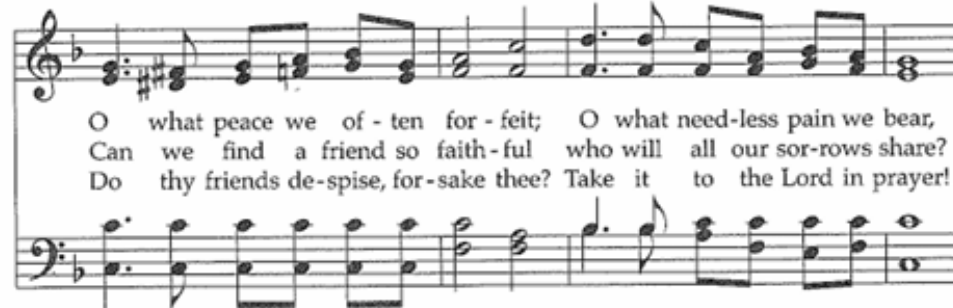
죄짐맡은 우리구주



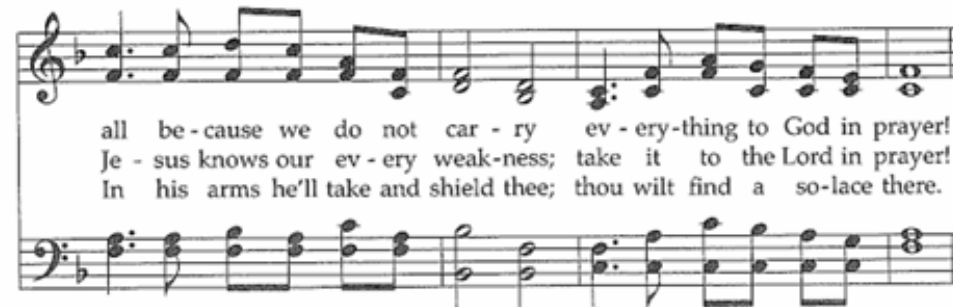
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefts to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.

TEXT: Joseph Scriven, 1855; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001
 MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868
 Korean Trans. © 2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

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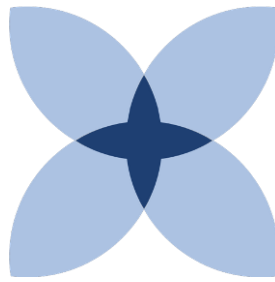
We are located at:
 471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
 Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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

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 18

"The First Presbyterian Conclave", 1 Corinthians 3:1-9,
Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching

May 25

Ascension of the Lord, Luke 24:44-53, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt preaching

 stirred:up

Our **May Communion Offering** is for the summer camp program of Stirred-Up Ministries, an enrichment program for at-risk youth in the East Lake area of Atlanta. In addition to the summer camp program, Stirred-Up Ministries offers year-round support to these youth and their families including after school tutoring and mentoring, family counseling and intervention, and a food pantry for emergency needs. For more information, please go to <https://stirred-up.org/>



Baby Shower: Presbyterian Women and Circle of Grace invite all church members to join us for lunch after church on June 1 at 11:45 in the Kirk Center to celebrate Christina and Isaac, who are having a baby girl this summer. Their friends and families have already provided everything on their registry, but a gift card to Amazon, Target, Publix or a casserole for their freezer would be most welcome. Please RSVP by May 28 to debbie@mvpchurch.org or at <https://evite.me/Y5Se4aHT1y>



We will be **sorting books** for Sandy Springs Education Force in Gailey Hall on Sunday, May 18 at 4:00 p.m. You don't have to be a senior citizen to help us help our local schools!



Men's Breakfast: All men are invited next Sunday, May 18 at 8:30am in the Kirk Center.



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

May 11, 2025



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet next 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 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: Even Michelle Obama is admitting this week that transitions are difficult and that help exists and assists in these times. Your Stephen Ministry here at Mount Vernon is ready to accompany you through life changes, whether it is grief, a move, an empty nest, the loss of friends or neighbors or children moving, retirement, a hard diagnosis, or anything that temporarily upsets you. 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, Gene Elder, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Karen Morine, David Wasserman, Ann & Herb Young, and the people of Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy to the family of Carolina Kirby-Smith who died on April 27. Her memorial service will be June 28 at St. James Methodist Church.

Attendance 5/4: 94, Online: 19

Dates for your calendar:

Summer Sermon Series: June 1 - August 3: Colors of Christ: Exploring Faith in the Stained Glass

June 8 Ordination Service for Shari Freeman, Time TBD

June 22 Los Niños Primero Sunday, 10:30am

Financial Update

As of May 8	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 227,950	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 17,362	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 2,602	\$ 26,000
Total	\$247,914	\$ 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