



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION OF THE LORD SUNDAY

MAY 25, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Reaching Out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

This Memorial Day, please note that the VA Domiciliary will receive our July offerings through the blue bags. A list of needed items will be published in July, but you can prepare by collecting men's clothing like socks, t-shirts, and underwear, as well as toiletries.

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

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"10,000 Reasons"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Chorus

Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name sing like never before
Oh my soul I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me let me be singing
When the evening comes (*chorus*)

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find (*chorus*)

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore (*chorus*)

Text and Music: Matt Redman & Steve Angrisano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

MVPC SAFETY UPDATE

David Hill & Steve Ray

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new world has broken into ours -

ALL: **a world in which justice does come for the poor, freedom comes for the prisoner, and healing comes for the sick.**

ONE: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new community has been formed -

ALL: **a community that loves and cares for all members, a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected, a place where all find belonging.**

ONE: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new creation has begun -

ALL: **all that was distorted is being restored, all that was corrupted is being renewed, all that was broken is being made whole.**

ONE: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, God's new world has begun.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

Litany for Ascension Day, written by Christine Sine

† OPENING HYMN (#150)

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;

Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend; to us He'll condescend;

His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Text : Christian Henry Bateman. Spanish Folk Melody. arr: Benjamin Carr.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Patient God, it hasn't been easy for us to be disciples or witnesses to your love. We get caught in traps of anger, impatience, and fear. Our words and spirits become cynical and jaded. Yet, at all times, you are with us, guiding and guarding us. On this day in which we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, we are reminded that we are not being left without guidance. The promise of the Spirit is given, and in that promise we have hope and courage to become true disciples. Forgive us when we forget that! Forgive us when we act as though you didn't care about us or about this world. We are called to be those who live the faith of hope and reconciliation, of courage and understanding. Lift us up when we have fallen, guide our hearts when we speak, for it is in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ, that we pray ... *(silent confession)*... Amen.

Written by Nancy Townley, found on the Ministry Matters website

† 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. Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:44-53

HOMILY

“While He Was Blessing Them”

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(The 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.

Luke ends his gospel with this ascension story, and Acts starts by repeating the ascension story. There are differences in the two ascension stories, mainly that Acts describes Jesus as resurrected for 40 days prior to the ascension.

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

“How Beautiful”

Jill Hudson

Words & Music: Twila Paris.

† 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

Donna Martin

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#155)

“Rejoice, the Lord is King”

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!

Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

God's kingdom cannot fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;

The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ the Judge shall come

To glorify the saints for their eternal home:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Text: Charles Wesley. Music: John Darwall.

Remember!
Wear something
multi-colored or
rainbow themed
next Sunday as
we kick-off our
Colors of Christ
series.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

“Recessional on Kingsfold”

arr. John Ball

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

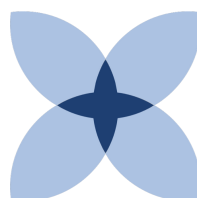
Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care

Jill Hudson, Music Director

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician

The flowers today are given by The Mount Vernon School to the Glory of God
in honor of 53 years of faithful partnership.

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



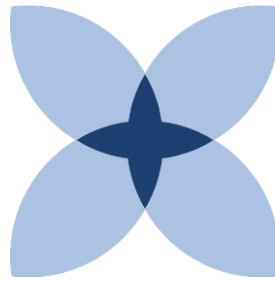
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

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

MVPC Announcements....

Sunday School
9:30 - 10:15am

Connection
10-10:25am



Colors of Christ
Wear these colors each Sunday:

June 1 Multi Colored (Rainbow)
June 8 Red
June 15 Red
June 29 Yellow

Worship
10:30-11:30am

Colors of Christ
Wear these colors each Sunday:

July 6 Orange
July 13 Blue
July 20 Pink
July 27 Purple
August 3 Green

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 27** Taizé, 7pm
- June 1** "Colors of Christ: *Rainbow*", Genesis 9:7-17, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Feel free to wear multiple colors
- June 8** Ordination of Shari Freeman, 10:30am; Luncheon to follow

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>



Lunch Bunch: Join Isaac & Shari for lunch **TODAY** after worship at City BBQ.



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 25, 2025



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The Day Circle finished studying all of the lessons in *What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture* by Dale Lindsay Morgan. The Book Circle read and reviewed nine excellent books. We look forward to another year of Bible study and reading. Meanwhile, have a wonderful Memorial Day and summer!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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: Ernest Hemingway once wrote that, in our worst moments, it isn't advice we need, but it is human connection. And that is something a Stephen Minister offers. We connect weekly to offer listening, encouragement, and comfort without judgment or sharing your stories with others. Sometimes, it can be that neutral voice, along with the care of family and good friends, that helps move one forward. Please connect with us by contacting Pat Bartee or a pastor.



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, Gene Elder, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Karen Morine, 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 5/18: 69, Online: 20

Dates for your calendar:

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

June 22 Los Niños Primero Sunday, 10:30am

Financial Update

As of May 22	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 264,965	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 29,562	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 2,741	\$ 26,000
Total	\$297,268	\$ 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

Medical Emergency

1. **Immediately inform** an usher.
2. Determine **if the person is breathing**; if not, the AED device (defibrillator) must immediately be used (located in the lobby). The victim must be laid in the floor and AED instructions followed. **Contact 911 & notify an usher if you have not already done so.**
3. In the case of a **person passing out or falling**, once it is determined they are breathing, a decision must be made regarding the need to contact 911. Avoid moving the victim since an injury from a fall could be made worse through movement.
4. For minor injuries, a first aid kit is available in the lobby.
5. Do not crowd around a sick or injured person.
6. Some members of the congregation have medical training or CPR training. These people are available to assist.
7. Please get someone seated nearby to assist if you are feeling sick. Inform them of details of your condition.

Intruder Emergency

1. Ushers & security personnel are watchful as they greet people coming to church. They will be trained in how to recognize potential volatile situations.
2. Entry to the church is only through the main lobby doors. Once the service begins, these doors are carefully monitored throughout the service.
3. If there is a violent intruder who is able to enter the sanctuary, move quickly away from the person. A staff member or usher will contact 911.
4. If possible, leave through the nearest exit. If you are unable to leave, get under the pew.
5. If you are near that person, several people could attempt to stop the intruder. We hope this will not be necessary, but as a last resort would be advisable.
6. People in various parts of the sanctuary could make sounds to attempt to distract and/or disorient the person.
7. Once in a secure area, do not move from that area until clearly identifiable law enforcement officials indicate it is safe to do so.
8. Follow all instructions given by law enforcement.