



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 4, 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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MVPC SAFETY UPDATE

David Hill & Pat Bartee

OPENING PRAYER

Each Sunday in
May we will
welcome our
MVPC Safety
team to give
updates and
guidance on
safety protocols
and procedures.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Today we celebrate the rise of a new generation.

ALL: **We celebrate young people discovering and proclaiming their faith!**

ONE: Let us, in turn, be renewed by the dynamic force of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: **Let us follow the teachings of Christ and be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!**

ONE: Yet as we know, confirmation is not the end of our faith journey, rather it is the next step in growing our faith.

ALL: **Yes, to paraphrase the wise theologian Yoda, "Much to learn, we still have." Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN (#142)

"All Hail The Power of Jesus Name"

All hail the power of Jesus' Name! let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of Hope, we have often heard it said that fear leads to anger, and that anger leads to hate, and that hate leads to suffering. So why do we let our fears overwhelm us? Why do we let our anger create mistrust? Why do we let our hate lead to violence? Why do we create a world that causes so much suffering? Renew within us your spirit, your *dunamis*, your power. We are here to rejoice in the work you have done within us and within the church that is ever anew. Help us to lead the saints hearing your stories for the first time, or proclaiming their faith for the first time. Together may we witness a new hope, one that refuses to bow to the dark side of sin, but rises to the bright side of grace so that suffering may become healing, hate may become love, anger may shift to peace, and the shackles of fear will succumb to the joy of freedom. In your Holy Name we pray ... *(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.

RECEPTION OF CONFIRMAND - Samantha Fifield

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.

Confirmation is a reaffirmation of our baptismal covenant. Youth are called to respond publicly to God's love shown forth in their baptism. The congregation responds by affirming their faith as well.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

(Children are invited to come forward for confirmation.)

(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

Acts 1:6-11

HOMILY

“May the Force Be With You”

As a pastor, I try to find where the goodness of God resides each day at MVPC. Sometimes it is quite evident, but sometimes it is the smallest of things. We see that truth in the theology of Star Wars. Luke Skywalker came from a place far removed from the center of the universe, a la Christ who was born in a manger on the outskirts of the Roman Empire.

RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Selected Questions from the Westminster Shorter Catechism*)

What is the chief end of humanity?

Humanity’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

What is God?

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Are there more Gods than one?

There is but one only, the living and true God.

How many Persons are there in the Godhead?

There are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

OFFERTORY

“Be Still”

Text and Music: David J. Evans.

† **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**

Joann Fifield

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 (#525)

"Here I Am, Lord"

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Fanfare on The Strife is O'er"

Phil Lehenbauer

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.*

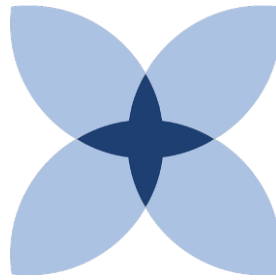
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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, 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 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
- May 18** Shari Freeman 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/>



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 too!

*DRIVING
MISS DAISY*

**LUNCH
BUNCH**

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!

Join Isaac and Shari TODAY 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

May 4, 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 Covey captures the essence of Stephen Ministry with these words. The power created within the person who feels finally "heard" allows them to see issues more clearly and move forward again. The trust created within the relationship allows sharing and a chance for God to begin his work. It is a remarkable process available to members of our church and our community. 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, 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 service will be June 7 in the Sanctuary.

Attendance 4/27: Outdoor: 90
Online: 22

<u>Dates for your calendar:</u>	
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 April 30	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 217,810	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 16,962	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 2,456	\$ 26,000
Total	\$237,228	\$ 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

Weather Emergency

The decision to cancel church will be made by 8:00 AM and will be communicated by email & posted on the church website.

Ushers will monitor weather conditions while church is in progress & will notify the pastor if there is a tornado warning.

In case of a tornado warning, the sanctuary & lobby will be evacuated since they are not safe areas. Ushers will direct people to the nearest exits that lead to safe areas:

Stairwells

The downstairs hall **away from windows**

Restrooms where there are **no windows**

Any nearby rooms that have **no windows**

During a tornado warning, remain in the secure area until notified the danger has passed.

Safe locations to shelter during a tornado warning are posted throughout the building. Those who are challenged by stairs will be directed to areas behind the pulpit, the restrooms near the chapel, and the robe room in the choir room.

If temperatures are near or below freezing, be aware of wet areas on walkways since what looks wet could actually be ice.

525

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM, LORD 7.7.7.4 D with refrain

Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; alt.

Harm. Michael Pope, Daniel L. Schutte, and John Weissrock, 1983

Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes.

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My peo-ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My peo-ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

Piano accompaniment for the first verse, corresponding to the lyrics above. The melody continues in the right hand, and the left hand maintains the accompaniment pattern.

All who dwell in deep-est sin My hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.

Piano accompaniment for the second verse, corresponding to the lyrics above. The melody continues in the right hand, and the left hand maintains the accompaniment pattern.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Piano accompaniment for the third verse, corresponding to the lyrics above. The melody continues in the right hand, and the left hand maintains the accompaniment pattern.

Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain
Unison

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

heard You call-ing in the night I will

go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your

peo - ple in my heart.

Fine