



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 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

"Satisfied"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Words : Clara Tear Williams. Music: Ralph E. Hudson. ©1875

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: From the mountains Jesus told those listening that they were the light of the world;

ALL: That they were the orange glow in the darkness, a pool of warmth and welcome.

ONE: Jesus declared the orange glow should not and cannot be put out;

ALL: And that we must carry it in front of us in all that we do.

ONE: Where does the orange glow invite us this morning?

ALL: Into worship and out into the world. Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN (#425)

"Lord of Light, Your Name Outstanding"

Lord of light, Your Name outshining all the stars and suns of space,

Use our talents in Your kingdom as the servants of Your grace:

Use us to fulfill Your purpose in the gift of Christ Your Son:

Refrain:

Abba, as in highest heaven, So on earth Your will be done.

By the toil of faithful workers in some far out-lying field,

By the courage where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,

By the victories of meekness, through reproach and suffering won: *(refrain)*

Grant that knowledge, still increasing, as Your feet may lowly kneel;

With Your grace our triumphs hallow, with Your charity our zeal;

Lift the nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun: *(refrain)*

By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night;

By the cross of Jesus, bringing peace to all and healing light;

By the love that passes knowledge, making all Your children one: *(refrain)*

Orange, like red, is often associated with fiery love of God found in the Holy Spirit. As this song proclaims, it is the hope that spiritual work is done with zeal and passion, reconciling the work here on earth with heavenly hope.

Words: Howell Lewis. Music: Cyril Taylor. ©1970 Hope Publishing Company.



† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Shari Freeman

God of Grace, you call us to be an example to the world, a light that shines in the darkness. By our actions the world may see you and turn to worship you. But sometimes our actions do not invite others to see and worship you. Sometimes our actions draw boundaries where there should be unity, or leave people out when we should invite them in. Your call to be an example to the world is difficult, and we are always working to be that example. We confess the times that we fall short, and we lean on your grace to lift us up again. Breathe your Holy Spirit into us, so that our lights may flicker and glow brighter ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see you; I want to see you;

To see you high and lifted up,

Shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love as we sing “Holy, holy, holy.”

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

Text and Music: Paul Baloche. ©1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - George Brian Mearns

Rev. Abernethy

† 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.

BAPTISMAL HYMN (#356)

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

(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

Matthew 5:14-16

HOMILY

"Colors of Christ: Orange"

In 1630, Puritan Minister John Winthrop invoked Matthew 5:14 to proclaim that the new Massachusetts Bay Colony would be a place to uphold the covenant with God. It has also been used by many to proclaim American exceptionalism.

RESPONSE

† HYMN

"This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

v. 2: Don't Let Anyone Blow It Out ...

v. 3 Everywhere I Go ...

Words & Music: African-American Spiritual, ©1989, The United Methodist Publishing House

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

OFFERTORY

"How Can I Keep From Singing"

Sujay Galen & Kathy Havey

arr. Richard Walters

† 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

David Hill

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Shari Freeman

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

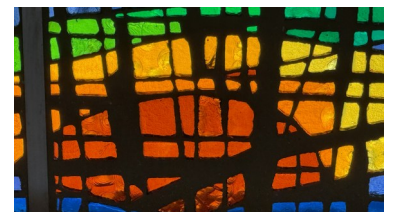
ALL: And also with you.

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.)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Make Me a Channel for Your Peace"

Sujay Galen, Soloist
arr. Mark Hayes

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#564 v. 1,3,4) **"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"**

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"A Patriot Medley"

Bob Martin, Accordion

Also known as
"America The
Beautiful," the lyrics
were written for the
4th of July, 1895 in
a poem titled "Pikes
Peak." The author
was Katherine
Bates.

Leading Today's Worship Service

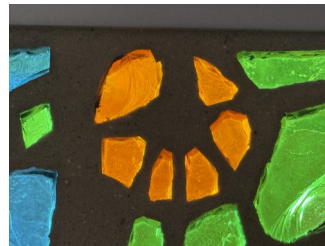
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Shari Freeman, Associate Pastor of Spiritual Care

Jill Hudson, Music Director

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician & Liturgist

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



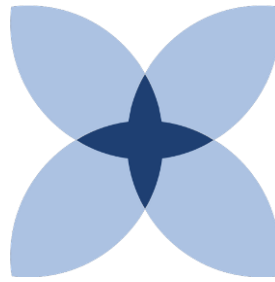
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

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

Colors of Christ

Wear these colors each Sunday:

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

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:



July 13 "The Colors of Christ: Blue", Numbers 15:37-41, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

July 20 "The Colors of Christ: Pink", Psalm 113, 2 Samuel 23:1-7, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Church Office Closed: Monday, July 7



Lunch Bunch: Join us TODAY at City BBQ for lunch after worship.

Our **July Communion Offering** is for the Atlanta VA Domiciliary. The Domiciliary provides residential rehabilitative programming for Veterans facing homelessness, mental health and/or substance use disorders. They facilitate community reintegration by promoting autonomy and self-sufficiency through assessments, treatment, education, referrals and linkages that improve veterans' quality of life. For more information about the VA Domiciliary program, please visit [Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program - VA Homeless Programs](#)



VBS 2025: YeeHaw! Please sign up your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends. They will roundup on Saturday, August 9 from 9:30am-1:00pm. For easy registration, scan this QR code!



July 6, 2025



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: We enjoyed our Bible study and book reviews this year, and we look forward to next year. Meanwhile, have a wonderful 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. Shari Freeman for more information.



Stephen Ministry: Please utilize our trained team of Stephen Ministers when you are in temporary, emotional or spiritual distress. These members are committed to supporting you, listening to you, encouraging you as you experience a rough time. Contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get connected.



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: Lorry Clark, Mike Damron, Sherri Galloway, Jeanne Gilliland, Malinda Holmes, Megan Kendall, Melody Minton, Karen Morine, Don Travis and the people of Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy for the family of Gene Elder who died on June 22. A service is pending.

Christian Sympathy for Ann Williams and her family on the death of her sister. The service is in Alabama.

Attendance 6/29: Sanctuary: 106 Online: 41

Dates for your calendar:

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

August 3 Healthy Aging Conference "Dementia in the Community Health/Faith and Inviting Places," 1:30-4pm

August 9 Vacation Bible School, "Yee Haw! Celebrating God's Greatest Gift", 9am-1pm

Financial Update

As of July 3	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 317,258	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 31,665	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 3,976	\$ 26,000
Total	\$352,899	\$ 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