



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 31, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

† For those who are able, please stand.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL INTROIT

"Down to the River"

Chancel Choir
arr. Sheldon Curry.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Shari Freeman

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather together to worship God,

ALL: **Who comes to us when we least expect it.**

ONE: We gather together to worship God.

ALL: **Who calls us out of the safety of our ordered lives.**

ONE: We gather together to worship God,

ALL: **Who leads us on the path of faith. Let us worship God!**

THE FIRST LESSON

The Return Road, Luke 15:17-20

Mike Havey

HYMN (*Bulletin pg. 6*)

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

Words & Music: Will Thompson.

THE SECOND LESSON
HYMN (#387)

The Path to Peace, Psalm 23
"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Mary Kilgore

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor; early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

Words & Music: William Batchelder Bradbury

THE THIRD LESSON
HYMN (#455, v. 1, 2, 4)

Balaam and the Donkey, Numbers 22:22-30
"All Creatures of Our God and King"

Asa Pedi

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fertile earth, that day by day unfoldest blessings on our way,
O sing ye! Alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let them God's glory also show!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Words: Francis of Assisi. Music: Geistliche Kirchengesang. ©1926 J. Curwen & Sons Ltd.

THE FOURTH LESSON
HYMN (Bulletin pg. 7, v. 1,2,4)

The Road to Jericho, Luke 10:29-37
"We Are One in The Spirit"

Joey Noszek

Words & Music: Peter Scholtes. ©1966 F.E.L. Publication

(Children are invited to Children's Church in the Chapel).

THE FIFTH LESSON

The Path of Loyalty, Ruth 1:15-18

Mary Lea Woods

OFFERTORY

"Abide with Me"

Chancel Choir

Words: Henry Francis Lyte. Music: William Henry Monk. arr. Gilbert M. Martin.

† DOXOLOGY (#592)

"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

Mary Kilgore

THE SIXTH LESSON

The Road to Perdition, Matthew 7:13-14

David Hill

HYMN (#8)

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.

Let me Thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

Words: Georg Weissel. Music: Thomas Williams.

THE SEVENTH LESSON
HYMN (#526, v. 1,2,4)

The Stairway to Heaven, Genesis 28:13-16
"For All The Saints"

Christy Hill

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Words: William How. Music: Ralph Williams

THE EIGHTH LESSON
HYMN (#85)

The Dead-End Road, Matthew 4:1-4
"What Wondrous Love is This"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

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!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Words and Music: Walker's Southern Harmony.

THE NINTH LESSON

The Via Dolorosa, Luke 23:26-27, 32-33

Anthony Menardi

HYMN (#371, v. 1,2,4)

"Lift High the Cross"

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *(refrain)*

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. *(refrain)*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. *(refrain)*

Words: George Kitchin. Music: Sidney Nicholson. ©G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

THE TENTH LESSON

The Road to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-16, 30-31

Kathy Havey

† HYMN (#142, v. 1,2,4)

"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!

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!

Words: Edward Perronet and John Rippon. Music: Oliver Holden

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

arr. Marvin Gaspard.

The primary role of a postlude is to provide a musical transition, connecting the sacred worship experience to the secular world as people leave the church. Feel free to depart during the postlude, or hang around and hear the grand Mount Vernon organ!

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;

4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,

and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966

Text and Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

7.6.7.6.8.6 with refrain

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Shari Freeman, Associate Pastor 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.*

Navigating Roads

*"When I was a child, my family spent a lot of time with my grandparents.
They lived in a small farming community on Highway 29 in southern
Alabama. Highway 29 runs for 1,043 miles from Maryland to Florida. This
was the era before interstate freeways, and it was a long drive from
Atlanta. My sister and I would play "count the cows" and other travel
games. However, Highway 29 would always bring us to Grandma's house
and to family and love."*

- Jeanne Gilliland

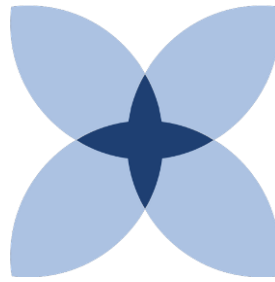
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:



September 7 "Navigating Roads: The Miraculous Road", Matthew 14:22-33,
Rev. Shari Freeman

September 14 "Navigating Roads: The Return", Luke 15:11-32, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Lunch Bunch: Join Shari **TODAY** after worship at City BBQ.

Church Office will be closed tomorrow, September 1.



Small Groups: Get ready for one of our Fall Small Group Sessions! Small Groups begin on Sunday, Sept. 14. Sign-up in the Narthex!



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet on September 9 at 10:30 in the Session Room. Beth Abernethy will teach Lesson One: *Mary Magdalene, the Tower* in the 2025-2026 Bible study guide, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ*. The **Book Circle** will meet on September 12 at 10:00 in the Session Room. Beth Abernethy will lead a review of *The Only Woman in the Room* (Historical fiction) By Marie Benedict. **Circle of Grace** will meet September 7 from 5-6:30pm. For more information contact Lisa Cumming at lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com



NEW! Little Blessings Room: Starting Sept. 7, the Little Blessings Room (located in the Session Room) will be available for parents to go with their 0-3 year olds during the Worship Service. The worship service will be live-streamed into the room and there will be chairs for nursing and holding babies and toys for toddlers.



Movie Matinee: People of all ages, the Seniors are hosting the upcoming quarterly movie matinee, complete with popcorn, sodas and treats. Join us Saturday, Sept. 6 at 1:00p.m. in the Session room for "The Trouble with Harry," a 1955 comedy directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation invites you to lunch catered by Fox Brothers BBQ on Sunday, Sept 14, in Fellowship Hall directly after church. We'll share information on the great work the Foundation is doing and how you can easily get involved.

August 31, 2025



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

Giving



Our **August Communion Offering** is new school supplies for the Sandy Springs Education Force Teacher's Closet. SSEF creates targeted programs that educate, inspire and prepare public school students in Sandy Springs for a competitive world.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: This is an ongoing fund that helps with any disaster. To find out all that they support, go to their website at <https://pcusa.org/search?query=presbyterian%20disaster%20assistance&page=1>. You can also donate on this site.



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: Your church Stephen Ministry team is here to help you manage and master a difficult time in your life. Sometimes, all it takes is new perspective and clarity, offered by a non-judgmental person who calmly listens and helps you to see your own way forward. Please call on us by contacting Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or Shari.



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: Carolyn Bowen, Allison Eustis, Gerald Fudge, Lorry Clark, Malinda Holmes, Penny Kiel, Megan Kendall, Marion Satterfield, and the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy for the family of Barbara Murphy, mother-in-law of Sharon Murphy, who died August 14.

Attendance 8/24: Sanctuary: 73 Online: 15

Dates for your calendar:

September 14 Small Groups begin

September 14 Foundation Fall Kick-Off, Fox Bros. BBQ

September 28 Outdoor Service, Blessing of the Animals

October 19 Pumpkin Palooza

Financial Update

As of August 28	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 376,845	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 50,899	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 5,259	\$ 26,000
Total	\$433,003	\$ 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



**Announcement for Called Congregational Meeting
September 28, 2025**

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2025, immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary for the purpose of conducting the following business:

- Receive the report of the Nominating Committee of new elders to be elected by the congregation to begin service on Session beginning with ordination and installation in January 2026, (requires a vote by the congregation)
- Receive changes to the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church By-Laws recommended by the Session. The changes requested by the Session are:
 - ◇ Replace the old mission statement with the new mission statement
 - ◇ Change the number of Sundays required for notification of a called congregational meeting from four Sundays to two. (requires a vote by the congregation)