



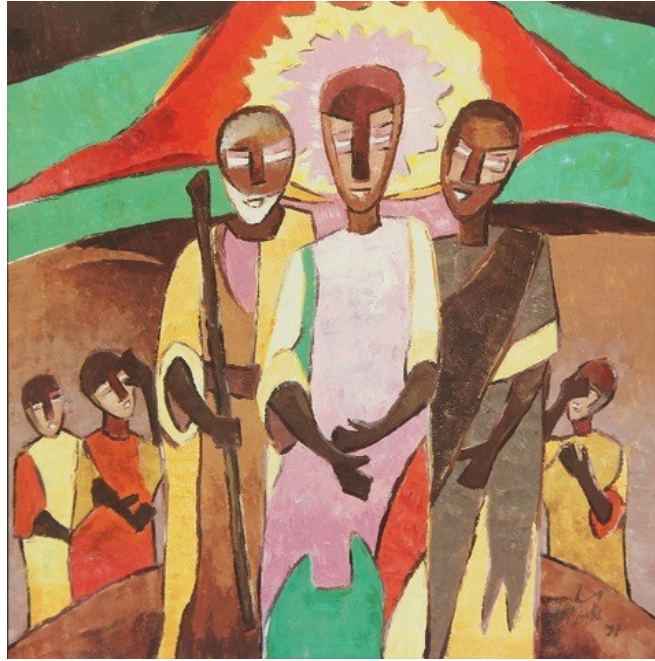
## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

FEBRUARY 15, 2026 • 10:30 AM

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

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



### GATHERING

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**"Beautiful"**

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

*Words & Music: Phil Wickham*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Shari Freeman

ONE: Now the Lord is the Spirit,

**ALL: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**

ONE: All of us, with unveiled faces,

**ALL: Are being transformed from one degree of glory to another.**

ONE: This comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

**This Call to  
Worship is from 2  
Corinthians 3:17-  
18.**

† OPENING HYMN (#263) "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Shari Freeman

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory, but we turn away, distracted by our own plans. We confess that we speak when we should listen, and act when we should wait. We focus on ourselves, and turn a blind eye to the suffering of others.

Forgive our aimless ambitions. Grant us wisdom to live in your light and to follow in the way of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE (#343, v.1) "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

*Text: Jane Parker Huber. Music: John Zundel. ©1981 Jane Parker Huber*

## 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

Dale Morine

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 24:12-18

Matthew 17:1-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

SERMON

"Clouds"

## RESPONSE

† HYMN (*see insert*) "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.19-8.21*)

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

"You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant."

The various offices in the church do not establish a dominion of some over the others; on the contrary, they are for the exercise of the ministry entrusted to and enjoined upon the whole congregation.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church, apart from this ministry, could and were permitted to give to itself, or allow to be given to it, special leaders vested with ruling powers.

This fourth Declaration of Barmen, emphasizing the importance of shared governance in the church, comes from Matthew 20:25-26

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. 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

"Be Strong in the Lord"

Will Hudson, Trumpet

*Words & Music: Brad Nix*

*(If you would like to contribute financially to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church or its mission, ushers will be stationed at the doors of the narthex to accept your gifts.)*

† DOXOLOGY (2x)

"God Welcomes All"

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn "God Welcomes All". Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system of music corresponds to the lyrics: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;". The second system of music corresponds to the lyrics: "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.".

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dale Morine

## SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** (*see insert*)      **“Open the Eyes of My Heart”**

*(During the final hymn, please follow Shari out to the courtyard as we burn the palms.)*

**BURNING OF THE PALMS** (*see insert*)

† **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

**POSTLUDE** (*see insert*)      **“Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes”**  
(v. 1)

Leading Today’s Worship Service

**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt**, Associate Pastor

**Rev. Shari Freeman**, Associate Pastor

**Jill Hudson**, Music Director & Organist

**Rev. Jonathan Freeman**, Contemporary Musician

**Chancel Choir**

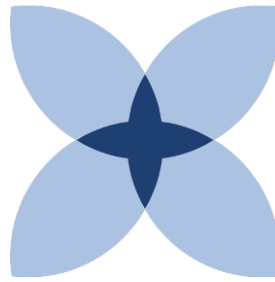
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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

## Upcoming Services/Events:



- February 18** Ash Wednesday, Pancake Supper 5:30pm Fellowship Hall, Worship 6:30pm
- February 22** "Who Will You Listen To?", Matthew 4:1-11, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes, 10:30am
- February 22** Book Sorting, Gailey Hall, 4pm  
Small Groups Begin
- February 24** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary

**Pastor Kate** is on vacation from February 13-17. Please reach out to Shari, Isaac, or the church office.



**Lunch Bunch:** Join us after worship **TODAY**, Sunday, February 15 at City BBQ.

**Spring Small Groups** will begin on February 22 and end on March 29! Sign-ups and devotionals are available in the narthex before and after worship. This season we plan to have three different small groups : a group that meets on the church campus, a group that meets in a home, and a group catered to young adults. All three groups will use the same devotional titled *Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith*. The scripture passages and questions in the devotional will pair with the scripture and questions focused on in worship. Join us for a deeper dive into our faith!

**The February Communion Offering** is for the Clifton Night Shelter. Clifton Sanctuary Ministry provides a transformational experience for homeless men through comprehensive life skills training, purposeful and assertive case management, collaborative community partnerships, and dedicated volunteers. For more information, please go to [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com).

**Worship Note:** *For the next few weeks we will be using sections from the Theological Declaration of Barmen. Written by a group of church leaders in Germany to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party. While some churches took the union of Christianity, nationalism and militarism for granted, others resisted. Among those determined leaders were Hans Amussen, Karl Koch, Karl Iraruer, Martin Niemoller (author of the First They Came poem) and theologian Karl Barth. The declaration contains six propositions, each quoting from Scripture, stating the implications of the day and rejecting false doctrine. The declaration proclaims the church's freedom in Jesus Christ who is Lord of every area of life. The church obeys him as God's one and only Word who determines its order, ministry and relation to the state.*



**February 15, 2026**



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

Giving



**Construction:** The City of Sandy Springs will be working on our entrance on the Johnson Ferry side for the next several weeks. We advise you to enter/exit the parking lot on the Mount Vernon side.



**Presbyterian Women:** The **Day Circle** met Tuesday, February 10. Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt taught Lesson 6: *Finding Our Joy in Christ: "I will Say it Again, Rejoice"*. The **Book Circle** met Friday, February 13. Sarah Chalpan led a review of *My Sister's Grave* (mystery thriller fiction) by Robert Dugoni. **Circle of Grace:** please email Lisa Cumming at [lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com) if you would like to join our group of women who get together multiple times a year for fellowship and a devotional.



**Little Blessings Room:** The Little Blessings Room (located in the Session Room) is available for parents to go with their 0-3 year olds during the worship service. The worship service is live-streamed into the room, and there are chairs for nursing and holding babies and toys for toddlers.



**Adult Sunday School: Discovery** meets in the Chapel and is using the curriculum *"The Present Word"*. **Crossroads** meets in the Session Room and is using a video curriculum about "The Historical Jesus", led by Prof. Bart Ehrman, North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Both classes meet at 9:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



**Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministers have been trained "to be the light", to assist our clergy staff for longer pastoral care cases, and to "be there for" congregation members and community friends in life difficulties. We are not counselors but Christian laypeople who have trained in recognizing levels of depression, suicide prevention, understanding the grief journey, being aware of strategies that assist in different situations and the importance of confidentiality. We are continually gaining new knowledge and new resources and strategies that help people rebound, grow, and become resilient. 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](mailto:barbara@babrooks.com) or call her at 404.422.5175.

**Prayer Concerns:** Bob Addison, Carol Beckman, Lorry Clark, Marshall & Sariah Dowdakin, Susan Fields, Bruce Hagenau, Judy Harrison, Lois Johnson, Megan Kendall, Kathryn Mackie, Una Milne, Judith Roe, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

**Attendance 2/8:** Sanctuary: 94 Online: 16

**\*\*\* All 2025 Giving Statements were emailed January 31, 2026**

*If you would like to contribute financially to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church or its mission, offering plates are in the Narthex.*

**Financial Update**

As of February 12	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 114,038	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 16,637	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 373	\$ 7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 131,048</b>	<b>\$ 527,500</b>

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the weekly *Happenings* email or monthly *Good News* newsletter, please email them to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)