



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 • 10:30 AM

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

† For those who are able, please stand.



The Beatitudes by Kelly Latimore

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Hold Us Together”

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Words & Music: Matt Maher

And love will hold us together, make us a shelter to weather the storm.

And I'll be my brother's keeper, so the whole world will know that we're not alone.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

ONE: Blessed are we,

ALL: **When our treasures cannot be quantified.**

ONE: Blessed are we,

ALL: **When our knowledge is tempered by mystery.**

ONE: Blessed are we,

ALL: **When our pain is held in the balm of love.**

ONE: Blessed are we,

ALL: **When our delight comes from beyond ourselves. Let us worship God!**

Retired United
Church of Christ
Pastor Rev.
Katherine
Hawker wrote
this Call to
Worship.

† OPENING HYMN (#461)

"God is Here!"

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Merciful God, you teach us that in your Kingdom, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," but we have been rich in pride. You encourage us to mourn, but we flee grief. You call us to meekness, but we are arrogant. You call us to hunger and thirst for righteousness, but we are complacent. You require mercy, but we are harsh and impatient. You commission us to be peacemakers, you coax us to stand for justice, and you urge us to carry out your work. Lord, forgive us when we fall short and renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we might walk joyfully following you ... *(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

Penny Kiel

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Rev. Colussy-Estes

SERMON

"Blessed Are ..."

RESPONSE

† HYMN (*see insert*)

"How Blest Are Those"

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.16-8.18*) Rev. Shari Freeman

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body is joined and knit together.”

The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.

This third declaration of Barmen, asserting that the church is the community of followers of Jesus, through which Christ acts as the living Lord, is based on Ephesians 4:15-16.

OFFERTORY

“Now to Praise the Name of Jesus”

Words: Michael Bedford

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

† **DOXOLOGY**

“God Welcomes All”

God welcomes all, strangers and friends,
God’s love is strong and it never ends. (2x)

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Penny Kiel

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. 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

COMMUNION MUSIC

“What Does the Lord Require of You”

*1.
What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.
Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.
To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

Repeat as desired
What does the Lord re - quire of you?
walk hum - bly with your God.
and walk hum - bly with your God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN (#386)**

“ O For a World”

† **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Colussy-Estes

POSTLUDE

“Rejoice, the Lord is King”

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!)

Leading Today’s Worship Service

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes, Interim Senior Pastor

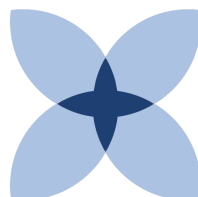
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

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 15 "Seen", Transfiguration Sunday, Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 17:1-9, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

February 18 Ash Wednesday, Pancake Supper 5:30pm Fellowship Hall, Worship 6:30pm

Pastor Kate will be away in service to the larger church February 8-12 and then on vacation from February 13-17. Please reach out to Shari or Isaac or the church office.



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.

Spring Small Groups will begin on February 22 and end on March 29! Sign-ups 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.

Lunch & Games: All senior adults are invited for lunch and games on this Wednesday, February 11 from 11:30-2:30 in Gailey Hall. Contact Mary Lea Woods if you're interested.

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

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.

PRBG 2026 Advocacy Training, Thursday, February 12 at 7pm via Zoom. Register at P4BG.ORG



February 8, 2026



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet this coming Tuesday, February 10, at 10:30 in the Session Room. Pat Bartee will conduct the meeting and Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt will teach Lesson 6: *Finding Our Joy in Christ: "I will Say it Again, Rejoice"*. The **Book Circle** will meet this Friday, February 13, at 10:00 in the Session Room. Sarah Chalpan will lead 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 if you would like to join our group of women who get together multiple times a year for fellowship and a devotional.



NEW! 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: When the storms of life make your journey forward too difficult to handle alone, our Stephen Ministers are here to walk with you. Stephen Ministers are especially trained to listen and truly hear you, to give encouragement as you dig your way out, to add perspective and point out options that are new to you, to offer spiritual and secular resources that might lift your spirit, and to be a dependable anchor as you find your way out of the situation. 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: 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, and ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy to the friends and family of Barbara Bruce who died Saturday, January 10. A memorial service will be Saturday, March 21 at 1pm in the Sanctuary.

Attendance 2/1: Sanctuary: 68 Online: 48

***** All 2025 Giving Statements will be emailed by 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 5	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 92,433	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 16,287	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 338	\$ 7,500
Total	\$109,058	\$ 527,500

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