



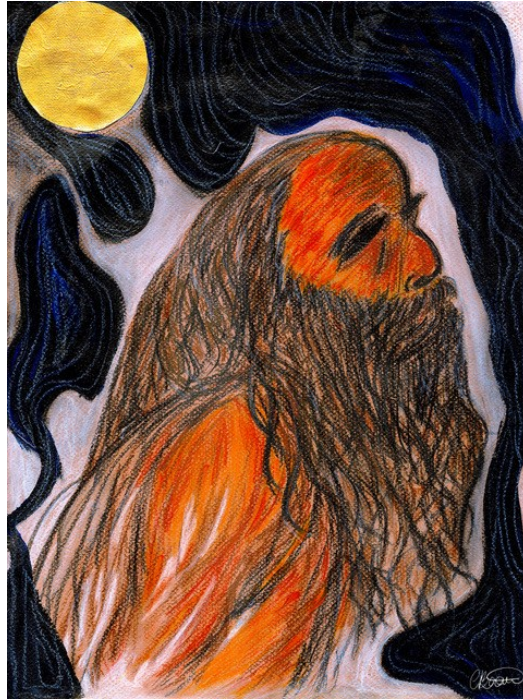
MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 1, 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

“Plowshare Prayer”

Asa Pedi, Soloist

Erica Holloway, Cello

Words & Music: Spencer LeJoy

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

ONE: What is it like to begin again?

**ALL: It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.
It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.**

ONE: It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

ALL: It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

ONE: May we find God in our seeking.

ALL: May we learn as we go.

ONE: May we be brave enough to begin again.

ALL: Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

† OPENING HYMN (#324)

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and we bury our heads in the sand. You promise all the stars in the sky, and we doubt it can be true. You speak of new life in the Spirit, and we tell ourselves we’ve missed our chance. Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you. Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you ... (silent confession) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...We belong to God. We are held in God’s love.

ALL: **We are made new. Amen.**

† RESPONSE (#333)

“Seek Ye First”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.

Allelu, alleluia!

Text & Music: Karen Lafferty ©1972, Maranatha! Music

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Shari Freeman

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.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

(The children are invited to Children’s Church in the Chapel. Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Joan Rownd

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-4A

John 3:1-17

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

SERMON

"How do we begin again?"

RESPONSE

† HYMN (*see insert*)

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.25 - 8.27*)

Rev. Shari Freeman

"Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

"The word of God is not fettered."

The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church in human arrogance could place the Word and work of the Lord in the service of any arbitrarily chosen desires, purposes, and plans.

[This is the final of the six Declarations of Barmen, written by a group of church leaders in Germany to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party and begins by citing Matthew 28:20, 2 Timothy 2:9.](#)

OFFERTORY

"O Love"

Chancel Choir
Erica Holloway, Cello
by Elaine Hagenburg

(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.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Joan Rownd

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

"Rafe's Waltz" Traditional
"On Wings of Song"
Erica Holloway, Cello

by F. Mendelssohn

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#387)

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

"Fanfare on 'Holy God, We Praise Thy Name'"

arr. Paul Fey

(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. Shari Freeman, Associate Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician

Jill Hudson, Music Director & Organist

Chancel Choir

The artwork is from A Sanctified Art
Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified
Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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:



- March 8** "Will you give me a drink?", Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42, Rev. Shari Freeman
- March 15** "Who Sinned?", John 9:1-7, John 9:8-41, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
- March 21** Barbara Bruce memorial service, 1pm
- March 22** "Can these bones live?", John 11:1-45, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
- March 24** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary



Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, March 8. Please RSVP to the office (phone or email debbie@mvpchurch.org) if you plan to stay for lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

The March Communion Offering is for the Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS) Student Food Pantry. Many CTS students, especially international students, do not have vehicles for easy transportation, so the food pantry is a great help. The food pantry is sponsored by the seminary, the Columbia Friendship Circle, and local congregations. For more information about CTS Student Life, please visit <https://www.ctsnet.edu/student-life/>



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.

Worship Note: *This is the last week we will be using 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.*

March 1, 2026



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet on March 10. Barbara Brooks will teach Lesson 7: *The Woman Who Was Bent Over*. The **Book Circle** will meet on March 13. Cathy Jenkins will lead a review of *The Frozen River* (historical mystery, biographical fiction). **Circle of Grace's spring schedule:** March 8 at Meg Christian's home, April 19, at Debbie Barcliff's home, May 3 at Dale Morine's home. Please email Lisa Cumming at lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com if you questions.



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 at **9:15am** in the Chapel and is using the curriculum "*The Present Word*". **Crossroads** meets at **9:30am** in the Session Room and is using a video curriculum about "The Historical Jesus", led by Prof. Bart Ehrman, North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Stephen Ministry: Have you ever thought of suggesting our Stephen Ministry to a friend who is having difficulty? We are here for our congregation, our work with Vitas Hospice, and the community around us. How can we make your journey through difficulty lighter? Contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get connected. 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: MB (friend of Mary Lea Woods), Carol Beckman, Jack Bobeng, Susan Fields, Gerald Fudge, Bruce Hagenau, George Hammett, Megan Kendall, Kathryn Mackie, Amy Kiley & Jay McCory, Una Milne, Judith Roe, Linda Young our homebound & isolated members, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

A memorial service for Barbara Bruce who died Saturday, January 10 will be Saturday, March 21 at 1pm in the Sanctuary.

Attendance 2/22: Sanctuary: 70 Online: 20

***** 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 25	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 117,404	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 17,287	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 533	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 135,224	\$ 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