



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2026 • 10:30 AM

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

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



Insight by Lisle Gwynn Garrity Silk Painting with digital drawing and collage

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Closer to Fine"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Nichol Jacobs, vocals & Chris Duncan, guitar

by the Indigo Girls

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Scripture is full of questions.

ALL: Where are you?

ONE: Am I my brother's keeper?

ALL: Whom shall I send?

ONE: Who do you say that I am?

ALL: Who sinned?

ONE: How many times shall I forgive?

ALL: If God is for us, who can be against us?

One: Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

ALL: Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

† OPENING HYMN (#413)

“All Who Love and Serve Your City”

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Colussy-Estes

Who here has sinned? We have all sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignored people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We are in need of forgiveness. God you are merciful and do not punish or hold grudges. When we suffer, you weep with us. When we sin, you forgive. When we lose our way, God comes running. Thanks be to God for a love like that...Amen

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. When we suffer, God weeps with us. When we sin, God forgives us. When we lose our way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. 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

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

Mary Lea Woods

SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-7
John 9:8-41

Rev. Colussy-Estes

SERMON

"Who Sinned?"

RESPONSE

† HYMN (#399)

"We Walk by Faith & Not By Sight"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from A Sanctified Art*)

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

We believe in a merciful God,
a God who does not keep score,
a God who wants good for us.
We believe in a creative God,
a God who would heal with mud,
a God capable of seeing what we cannot.
We believe in a saving God,
a God who heals,
a God who greets our questions with patience,
a God who sends us out with hope in our step.
What wondrous love is this. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

OFFERTORY

"A Living Sacrifice"

Words & Music: Mary McDonald

(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"

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mary Lea Woods

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** (*see insert*) **“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”**

† **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Colussy-Estes

POSTLUDE

“Jubilant Psalm”

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

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

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes, Interim Senior Pastor

Jill Hudson, Music Director & Organist

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician

Chancel Choir

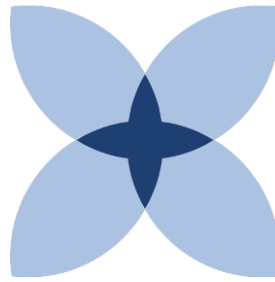
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:



- 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
Mary Smith Memorial Service, Mount Vernon Towers, 2pm
- March 24** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary

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/>



Pastor Jane Retirement Videos: If anyone would like to wish Pastor Jane well on her retirement they should plan to either come for a filming session (3/15, 3/22, or 3/29) after worship in the Session Room or send a video to cargillhutt@gmail.com.



Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Lunch & Egg Hunt; Wednesday Service at noon; Maundy Thursday Service & Agape Meal at 6:30pm; Good Friday Service at noon; Easter Sunrise 7am; Easter Worship 10:30am



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** met Tuesday, March 10. Barbara Brooks taught Lesson 7: *The Woman Who Was Bent Over*. The **Book Circle** met last Friday, March 13. Cathy Jenkins lead a review of *The Frozen River* (historical mystery, biographical fiction). **Circle of Grace's spring schedule:** 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.



Lunch Bunch: Join us for lunch next Sunday, March 22 after worship at City BBQ. All are welcome!

March 15, 2026



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

Giving



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: Sometimes, an event comes along that just topples you. You cannot concentrate, cannot sleep well, and find that the distressing situation permeates your thoughts. It may not be what most classify as a major event, but it is becoming major in your life. Please contact our Stephen Ministry and let a trained layperson help you find perspective, clarity, and calm in the midst of difficulty. 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, Sam Brasher, Shari Freeman, Bruce Hagenau, George Hammett, Megan Kendall, Kathryn Mackie, 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 will be Saturday, March 21 at 1pm in the Sanctuary.

A **memorial service** for Mary Smith will be held at MV Towers on Sunday, March 22 at 2pm.

Attendance 3/8: Sanctuary: 82

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

	<u>Financial Update</u>	
As of March 12	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 149,830	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 17,672	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 573	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 168,075	\$ 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