



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2026 • 10:30 AM

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

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



"Rubble" by Carmelle Beaugelin (Conte crayon, charcoal, acrylic, paprika paste, cinnamon)

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Beautiful Things"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman
Words & Music: Michael Gungor

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

ALL: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

ONE: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

ALL: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

ONE: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

ALL: Hope lives here!

ONE: So, come. Rest your weary bones.

ALL: Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN (#322)(2x)

“Spirit of the Living God”

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Colussy-Estes

Jesus of Nazareth, I confess: I forget that you know this feeling. I forget that you, too, have wept. I forget that you, too, have lost. I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity. Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you. Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel. Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us. Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you. With gratitude I pray, amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...So hear and believe this good news:

ALL: **We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone.**

† 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, allelulia!

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

Sam McClurg

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 11:1-45

Rev. Colussy-Estes

SERMON

“Can these bones live?”

RESPONSE

† HYMN (*see insert*) "O God, Who Gives Us Life"

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

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

We believe that God loves us—
God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.

We believe that God does not give up on us—
breathing new life into tired bones.

We believe that God returns to us—
always seeking us when we are lost.

We believe that God holds hope for us—
so we hold onto hope as well.

We believe, help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray, 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

"There is a Redeemer"

Words & Music: Melody Green

(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

Sam McClurg

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN (#314)** **“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”**

† **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Colussy-Estes

POSTLUDE

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

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!)

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

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, 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
9:15/9:30 - 10:15am

Connection
10-10:25am



Worship
10:30-11:30am



Scan to sign up for the
Maundy Thursday
Agape Meal

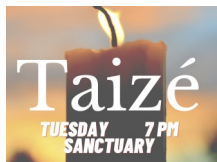
Upcoming Services/Events:



- March 24** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- March 29** "Where are you headed?", Matthew 21:1-11, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
- April 1** Worship at noon
- April 2** Maundy Thursday Service & Agape Meal at 6:30pm (*please use above QR code*)
- April 3** Good Friday Service at noon
- April 5** "Who are you looking for?", John 20:1-18, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
Sunrise: 7am, Worship: 10:30am



Congratulations to Richard & Nikki Player on the birth of their son, Arthur, on March 13. The rose on the communion table is in his honor.



The Taizé community was founded in 1940 in Eastern France as an ecumenical community of brothers whose prayer is at the heart of their life. Members are from all over the world, and are Protestant and Catholic. Their unique style of worship is centered around inclusive common prayer and simple, repetitive song "that never ends and that continues in the silence of one's heart..." Taizé worship seeks to find a common fellowship in Christ, allowing us to rest in the rhythm of the service. Come pray with us in a Taizé service so that this rhythm may take root in us and blossom with the seasons!



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: If you would like to give toward a retirement gift for Pastor Jane, please reach out to Wendy Hagenau. If anyone would like to wish Pastor Jane well on her retirement they should plan to either come for a filming session (3/22 or 3/29) after worship in the Session Room or send a video to cargillhutt@gmail.com.



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



Senior Ministry Team: Join us on a trip to the Michael C. Carlos Museum on Wednesday, March 25. Sign up in the Narthex or text Mary Lea at 404.668.0151.

March 22, 2026



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, April 14 at 10:30am. Pat Bartee will teach lesson 8: *Remembering Jesus' Baptism*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, April 10 at 10am in the Session Room. They will review *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. **Circle of Grace's spring schedule:** April 19, at Debbie Barclift'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: People who have utilized Stephen Ministry at our church have sought help for various reasons, but all have wanted a dependable, trustworthy, non-judgmental, confidential environment with a trained, trusted person who could listen, help clarify, add perspective, and stay the course. That relationship has moored them, given them hope and, often, a renewed spirit. Please contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get involved. 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: Carol Beckman, Jack Bobeng, friends of the Bumgarners, Shari Freeman, Bruce Hagenau, George Hammett, Megan Kendall, Mary Kilgore, Kathryn Mackie, Elizabeth Small, Linda Young our homebound & isolated members, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

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

Christian sympathy for the friends and family of Sam Brasher who died March 16. A service is TBD.

Attendance 3/15:

Sanctuary: 78

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 March 19	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 155,242	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 17,672	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 603	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 173,517	\$ 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