

# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 2026 • 10:30 AM

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

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



*"Living Water" Digital Painting by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman*

## GATHERING

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**"All Who Are Thirsty"**

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

*Words & Music: Brenton Brown & Glenn Robertson*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Shari Freeman

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes*

ONE: We gather together

**ALL: the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers, in hopes of seeing God.**

ONE: We gather together

**ALL: the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely, in hopes of finding peace.**

ONE: We gather together

**ALL: those who are thirsty and those with water to spare, in hopes of finding justice.**

ONE: So come to the well, come to the table.

**ALL: Come, let us worship God. Amen.**

† OPENING HYMN (#391)

“Take My Life”

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Colussy-Estes

Holy God, we have been on every side of this story. We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion, and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well. So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbors? How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change? How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work? Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day. It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...This is the good news of the gospel: God's grace is deeper than any well.

ALL: We are seen, loved, and forgiven. 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, 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

Diane Bumgarner

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 17:1-7

John 4:5-29, 39

Rev. Shari Freeman

SERMON

“Will you give me a drink?”

## RESPONSE

† HYMN (#350)

“Fill My Cup”

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

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

We believe that a glass of water given to us by a stranger can taste like justice.

We believe that honest conversation has the power to change us.

We believe that all God’s children have a voice and something to say.

We believe that Jesus loves the outcast, the ignored, the shamed, and the abandoned.

We believe in asking questions.

We believe in curiosity.

We believe in giving people a drink.

May we be brave enough to give people a drink. 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

“My Song is Love Unknown”

Laurie Swann, Soloist

John Ireland

*arr. McCabe/Getty*

*(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.

*Text: John L. Bell, Text and Music Transcr. ©2008 WGRG, Iona Community*

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Diane Bumgarner

## SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (*see insert*)

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Shari Freeman

Annual Congregational Meeting

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

**Rev. Shari Freeman**, Associate Pastor

**Jill Hudson**, Music Director & Organist

**Rev. Jonathan Freeman**, Contemporary Musician

**Chancel Choir**

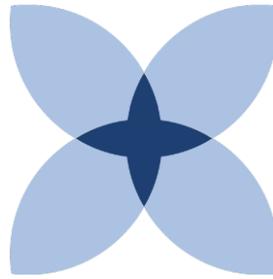
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:



- 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: TODAY**, Sunday, March 8. Please stay after the service and then move to the Fellowship Hall for lunch.

**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](mailto:cargillhutt@gmail.com).



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

**March 8, 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:** 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.

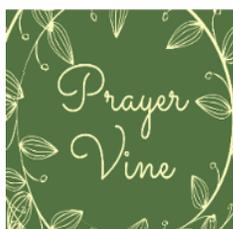


**Prayer Concerns:** MB (friend of Mary Lea Woods), Carol Beckman, Jack Bobeng, Susan Fields, Gerald Fudge, Bruce Hagenau, George Hammett, Megan Kendall, Kathryn Mackie, Amy Kiley & Jay McCory, Una Milne, Judith Roe, Linda Young our homebound & isolated members, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, 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 3/1:** Sanctuary: 89 Online: 15

**\*\*\* 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.*

	<u>Financial Update</u>	
As of March 4	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 141,033	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 17,515	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 573	\$ 7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 159,121</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