



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 12, 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

“Hold Us Together”

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Words & Music: Matt Maher

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Shari Freeman

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 16*)

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

ONE: We say to God: “You are my God; I have no good apart from you.”

ALL: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

ONE: God is my chosen portion and my cup; God holds our lot.

ALL: We bless God, who gives us council.

ONE: We keep God always before us.

ALL: For God does not give up on us or leave us behind.

ONE: Therefore our hearts are glad, our bodies rest secure,

ALL: And our souls rejoice! Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN (#244)

“This Joyful Eastertide”

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us. But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and renew us. Before God and God’s people, we confess that we have been reluctant to speak out clearly, naming the injustice we see and declaring God’s vision. Before God and one another, we confess our reluctance to receive our calling as God’s people, made by God and chosen as witnesses to God’s dream of justice and joy. Remind us, God, that you have made us for your service and recharge us with your word. Renew us, God. Grant us courage to live out your way of peace and grace. We ask this in Jesus’ name ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

† RESPONSE (#243)

“Be Not Afraid”

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

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

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:3-9

Acts 2:14a, 22-33

Rev. Shari Freeman

SERMON

“Can I get a witness?”

RESPONSE

† HYMN (#700) "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Confession of 1967, selections from 9.01-9.03*)

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ. In every age the church has expressed its witness in words and deeds as the need of the time required. The earliest examples of confession are found within the Scriptures. No one type of confession is exclusively valid, no one statement is irreformable. Obedience to Jesus Christ alone identifies the one universal church and supplies the continuity of its tradition. This obedience is the ground of the church's duty and freedom to reform itself in life and doctrine as new occasions, in God's providence, may demand. 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

"Pie Jesu"

Rebecca Shipley, Soprano

by: John Rutter

(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

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#485)	“We Know that Christ is Raised”	
† BENEDICTION		Rev. Shari Freeman
POSTLUDE	“Fanfare on <i>The Strife is O’er</i>”	by Phil Lehenbauer

(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!)

Cover Art:

Mosaic, Washington National Cathedral
Christ shows himself to Thomas by: Rowan and Irene LeCompte

Prayer of Confession:

From the “Worship Ways Archive” of the United Church of Christ

Leading Today’s Worship Service

Rev. Shari Freeman, Associate Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes, Interim Senior Pastor

Jill Hudson, Music Director & Organist

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician

Chancel Choir

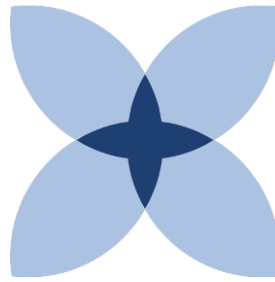
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

MVPC Announcements....

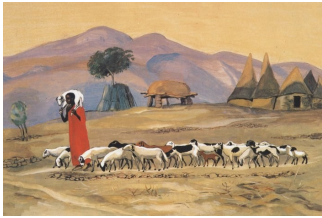
Sunday School
9:15/9:30 - 10:15am



Connection
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

Upcoming Services/Events:



- April 19** 1 Peter 2:19-25, Acts 2:42:47, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
- April 26** Outdoor, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
- April 28** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us for lunch with the pastors **TODAY** Sunday, April 12 after worship at City BBQ.

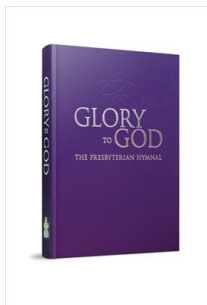


Book Sorting: all are welcome to help us sort books for SSEF April 19, 4pm in Gailey Hall



Our April Communion Offering is for the Community Assistance Center Food Pantry. This month, we are focusing on items for summer lunches and diapers. Many CAC clients rely on school lunches and breakfasts, so those families get extra food during the summer months. CAC provides basic needs assistance for Dunwoody and Sandy Springs neighbors to prevent homelessness and hunger while promoting self-sufficiency and empowering them to thrive.

Anna Morine has a special request for diapers in sizes: Newborn, 2, 5, and 7. They can be dropped off in the Outreach Bin outside the church office



Adopt a Hymnal begins on Sunday, April 19

April 12, 2026



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The Day Circle will meet this Tuesday, April 14 at 10:30am in the Session Room. Pat Bartee will teach lesson 8: *Remembering Jesus' Baptism*. The Book Circle met last Friday. Kathy Havey led a review of *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 have 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 & 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: Because of confidentiality, congregational members do not hear of the successes in our Stephen Ministry. But know that your team of Stephen Ministers stays busy. Each Stephen Minister has a homebound "friend", delivers grief booklets for a year to the homes of members who lose an immediate family member, delivers grief books to and in-town children of our deceased members, and serves as a volunteer with Vitas Hospice. Please contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get involved.



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, Dee Bradford-Smith, friends of the Bumgarners, Ann Dillon, Allison Eustis, Bruce Hagenau, George Hammett, Megan Kendall, Kathryn Mackie, Barbara Pirkle, Elizabeth Small, Linda Young our homebound & isolated members, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Christian sympathy for the friends and family of Sam Brasher who died March 16. A service will be Saturday, May 9 at 2pm in the Sanctuary.

Attendance 4/5: Easter Sunday: 208 Online: 25

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 April 9	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 175,586	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 19,142	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 2,096	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 196,824	\$ 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