



## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION SUNDAY

MAY 17, 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

**“All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

Kathy Havey, Alice Anne Duncan, Eloise Duncan, Rose Nelson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Amy Kiley

ONE: God raises up all that was once laid low, elevates what was once forgotten.

**ALL: God lifts up those who are pushed to the margins, and exalts those who are forced down.**

ONE: Christ rose and went up before the disciples; we must rise and go too!

**ALL: Outward to share the story and carry the mission that Christ passed on to us.**

ONE: Let us live into this day of Ascension,

**ALL: By lifting up and praising the signs of God among us. Let us worship God together!**

† OPENING HYMN (#452)

**“Open the Eyes of My Heart”**

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Hutt Family

God of Forgiveness, we want to know what your resurrection means for us. We want to know how it changes our lives, how it solves our problems, and how it proves our understanding of you. But you rose for all, not just for us. As we witness the wonder of your resurrection in this Easter season, help us to see beyond ourselves. All are included, all are invited in, and all will glorify God. Make us a part of your movement until the day of your return ... *(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!

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** - Phelps James "PJ" Dreger, son of James & Eva Dreger

Rev. Colussy-Estes

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** (*The 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.

† BAPTISMAL HYMN (#482)

**"Baptized in Water"**

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

*(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)*

THE WORD

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"Jesus Loves Me"**

Mike Havey, guitar, James Hutt

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Joey Noszek

**SCRIPTURE**

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Acts 1:6-14

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

**SERMON**

"Lifted Up"

RESPONSE

† HYMN (#258) "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language Version 9.31*) Travis Block

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Samantha Block

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

"Walk Together Children"

Amy Kiley, Soprano

*Traditional Spiritual. arr. by Moses Hogan*

*(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 (#399)(2x) "God Welcomes All"

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

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Beppie Lever

## SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#295)

**"Go to the World!"**

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

**"The Entertainer"**

Brady Anderson, piano

*by: Scott Joplin*

Brady Anderson is a Junior at Dunwoody High School and has studied piano with Jill Hudson for 8 years!

Notes:

Stained-glass composition by  
J. Le Breton (glass studio of Gaudin, Paris), 1933

### 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

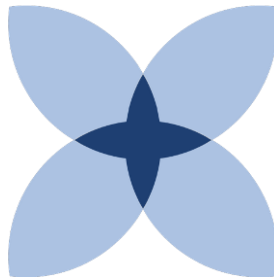


Our mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 76051  
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

# MVPC Announcements....

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

Connection  
10-10:25am



Worship  
10:30-11:30am

## Upcoming Services/Events:



- May 19** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- May 24** Pentecost(Outdoor), Acts 2:1-21, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes  
Lunch Bunch
- May 31** Trinity Sunday, Psalm 8, Genesis 1:1-2, 4a,



There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, May 31 to hear a report from the nominating committee

Construction has begun with the Frontier and is closed. The Mount Vernon entrance will be closed beginning Monday, June 1 as the construction continues.

Nominating  
COMMITTEE

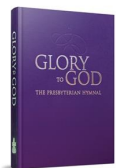
**The Nominating Committee Needs Your Help!** Are you interested in being directly involved in finding our next pastor, please let a member of the Nominating Committee know by **May 20**. Please know that this is a significant time commitment for several months. Members of the nominating committee are: Barbara Brooks, Diane Bumgarner, Meg Christian, Charlie Gray and David Hill.

LUNCH  
BUNCH

**Book Sorting:** all are welcome to join us TODAY immediately after worship in Gailey Hall. We will have pizza and have fun.



**Lunch Bunch:** Join us for lunch on Sunday, May 24 after worship at City BBQ.



**Adopt a Hymnal** There's still time to Adopt a Hymnal! Dedicating a hymnal to someone is a good way to honor people close to us or to remember people that are no longer here or to give special thanks to someone. Please complete the form in the bulletin and leave in the red box in the Narthex or return to the office. The suggested donation per hymnal is \$25

stirred:up

Our **May Communion Offering** is for the summer camp program of Stirred-Up Ministries, an enrichment program for at-risk youth in the East Lake area of Atlanta. In addition to the summer camp program, Stirred-Up Ministries offers year-round support to these youth and their families including after school tutoring and mentoring, family counseling and intervention, and a food pantry for emergency needs.



**Movie Matinee:** Join us for "Knives Out" on Saturday, May 30 at 1pm in the Session Room.

May 17, 2026



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

Giving



**Presbyterian Women:** The **Day Circle** met last Tuesday, May 12. Sarah Chalpan taught lesson 9: *When You Are Walking With Jesus: The Road to Emmaus*. This completes our Bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. The **Book Circle** met last Friday, May 8. Gigi Gunther led a review of *James* (historical fiction and humor). **Circle of Grace:** We will take the summer off but please check back for our Fall schedule. Please email Lisa Cumming at [lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com](mailto: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:** It is amazing how much better things get when a person feels fully heard! The unburdening, coupled with feeling understood, frees one from the angst and readies one for finding solutions. It is comforting to have a companion alongside to encourage, to help in the clarification of positive solutions, and to suggest resources that get things back on track. Please contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get onboard.



**Do you feel a need for prayer?** Have our Prayer Vine pray for you! Email your requests to [barbara@babrooks.com](mailto:barbara@babrooks.com) or call her at 404.422.5175.

**Prayer Concerns:** Carol Beckman, Dee Bradford-Smith, Betsy Cozine, Allison Eustis, Bruce Hagenau, George Hammett, David Hill, Megan Kendall, Nancy Kennedy, Kathryn Mackie, Patricia, Barbara Pirkle, our homebound & isolated members, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

**Attendance 5/10:** Sanctuary: 107 Online: 23

**Financial Update**

As of May 14	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 215,916	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 20,095	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 2,966	\$ 7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 238,977</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](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)