



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

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



GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Come, Now Is The Time To Worship”

by: Brian Doerksen

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Shari Freeman

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Mary Lea Woods, Stephen Ministry

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

ONE: God is in our midst, forming us to be God’s own people.

ALL: **Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.**

ONE: We need not fear.

ALL: **In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.**

ONE: Come to the Lord who surrounds you with God’s own righteousness.

ALL: **Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you.**

† **OPENING HYMN (#463)**

“How Firm a Foundation”

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

Merciful God, we come before you with hearts laid bare, confessing that too often we have turned away from your truth, resisted your Spirit, and hardened our hearts. Like those who opposed Stephen, we have sometimes chosen pride over humility, self-preservation over courage, and silence over the witness of your Gospel. Forgive us for the times we have stood by while others suffered for righteousness' sake. Forgive us for harboring bitterness instead of offering the grace Stephen showed when he prayed for his persecutors. Fill us with the courage to speak truth in love, the strength to endure hardship, and the mercy to forgive as we have been forgiven ... *(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

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

(All children of God 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

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

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

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ben Cumming

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 2:1-10

Acts 7:54-60

Rev. Shari Freeman

SERMON

"Stones"

RESPONSE

† HYMN (#462)

"I Love to Tell the Story"

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.4*)

Rev. Colussy-Estes

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

OFFERTORY

"The Meditations of My Heart"

by Elaine Hagenberg

† **DOXOLOGY** (2x)

"God Welcomes All"

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

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Ben Cumming

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Colussy-Estes

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Shari Freeman

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion.

If you prefer to remain seated, an elder will bring communion to you.)

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Turn"

If you need a world to belong to
look around, you're already home
And what you seek, you've already found
turn around to me, you will see no reason to be lonely

Music: Emil Adler. Words: Julie Flanders.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#726) **“Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)”**

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”

by: Paul Fey

(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!)

Call to Worship written by Rev. Nancy Townley on MinistryMatters.com.

Today's artwork is a mural depicting the Stoning of Saint Stephen from 1100 CE. The artist is unknown. It is on display at the National Art Museum of Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain.

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

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician

Chancel Choir

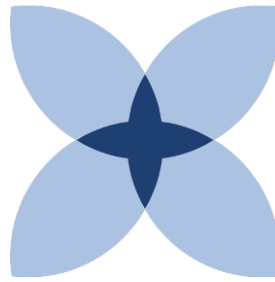
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328
mvpchurch.org



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

MVPC Announcements....

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



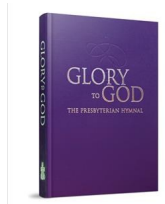
Connection
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

Upcoming Services/Events:



- May 9** Celebration of Life for Sam Brasher, 2pm in the Sanctuary
- May 10** 1 Peter 3:13-22, Acts 17:22-31, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
- May 17** 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, Acts 17:22-31, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt/Youth and Young Adults



Adopt a Hymnal has begun! If you wish to dedicate a hymnal, please fill out the enclosed form and put it in the red box in the Narthex or turn it in to the office along with a check made out to MVPC or you may use PayPal. Suggested donation \$25/hymnal.



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.



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet on May 12, Sarah Chalpan will teach lesson 9: *When You Are Walking With Jesus: The Road to Emmaus*. The **Book Circle** will meet on May 8. Gigi Gunther will lead a review of *James* (historical fiction and humor). **Circle of Grace's spring schedule:** TODAY, May 3 at Dale Morine's home. Please email Lisa Cumming at lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com if you have questions.

Elizabeth Small was the director of Youth Ministry at MVPC for twenty years. After multiple health issues over the last five years and some devastating financial losses, Elizabeth now resides in an Assisted Living facility in Birmingham. While Elizabeth has a monthly income from Social Security and a pension, it is not enough to cover her expenses in assisted living. A group of Elizabeth's friends in Birmingham has begun a fundraising effort. John Chesnutt is coordinating resources, please connect with John about how you can help.

May 3, 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 & 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: Our Stephen Ministry is beginning another book study to help us keep our listening and helping skills honed for service to our church and community. We feel strongly that our wells must be deep to help others. We are best used when temporary troubles become too sizable to manage. We offer another perspective, encouragement, clarification of goals, and resources and strategies to try may help the situation quickly and give relief. 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 or call her at 404.422.5175.

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

Congratulations to Anna Morine for winning 1st and 4th place ribbons in the Rising Star Equestrian Walk Trot. Congratulations Anna!

Attendance 4/26: Outdoor: 81 Online: 37

Financial Update

As of April 29	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 199,963	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 19,995	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 2,715	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 222,673	\$ 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