

January 15, 2023 "Behind Every Great Church There is Prayer" 10:15 am
Worship Leader: Jeanne Fulks

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation Organist, Carol Kendall

Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Words

The Spirit dances in the water, waiting in baptism to join us in the fire of love. Come to the waters. Come to the Spirit. Come to the journey of a lifetime — a journey through death to life everlasting.

*Introit "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" UMH #334

*Call to Worship

Leader: Holy waters call us here.

People: We are a people of the water.

Leader: Splash and play in holy springs.

People: We are a people of the Spirit.

Leader: Wash in the fount of Christ's love.

People: We are a people of God's grace.

Leader: Come! Our baptism calls us here.

*Opening Prayer:

Spirit of righteousness, God of power and might, help us be a light to the nations and a reflection of your glorious salvation.

Work in our lives and in our ministries, that the world might know the power of your love and grace.

As you alighted upon Jesus at his baptism, descend upon us this day, that we might be a people of hope and possibility.

Wash us clean and renew our spirits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" UMH #500 (vs. 1,4,5)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

We thank you, O God of sacred stories, for the witness of holy scripture.

Through it, you nurture our imaginations, touch our feelings, increase our awareness, and challenge our assumptions. Bless, we pray, our hearing of your word this day. Speak to each of us; speak to all of us; and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we may be hearers and doers of your word. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture Isaiah 43:1-2,3a,4a (NRSV) Rev. Candee Martin

Gospel Lesson Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSV) Rev. Candee Martin

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer Rev. Candee Martin

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Meditation "I Am Thine, O Lord" UMH #419 (vs. 1,2)

The Message We Are...God's Beloved Children...Forever Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" UMH #611 (vs. 1,4)

*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed UMH #881

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Faith

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through the water and the Spirit, you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

We give you thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

Special Music

David Sharp

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Be in the gifts we bring before you, O God, as you are ever in the gift of our baptism. **Renew your people through this offering, as you have renewed us with your presence today, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Doxology: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.

*Prayer of Yearning

Gentle Spirit, Holy Dove, reclaim us through the waters of our baptism. **As we long to be more than we have become, remake us through the power of your love.** In our yearning to taste the fullness of life, restore us through the wonder of your grace. **In our desire to live as your beloved children, make us instruments of your kingdom building, that we may be a light to the nations, and a source of hope to those who sit in darkness. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance

Listen to the voice that calls forth creation, claims Jesus at his baptism and speaks to us still: "You are my beloved; receive the Holy Spirit. Rest in this assurance and live in the Spirit.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration "Spirit Song" UMH #347

Extinguishing the Candles Christ's light leads us into the world to serve.

*Charge Rev. Candee Martin

We have been with Jesus to the River of Jordan, river of life, river of promise. Go forth in the joy of life, to live as children of promise.

*Blessing Rev. Candee Martin

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who stood with sinners on the river bank, uphold you. May the love of God, who calls us beloved children, bless you. May the power of the Holy Spirit, who descended upon Jesus as a dove, give you peace. And may you always, always, always: Remember your baptism! **Amen.**

Postlude

Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church

Where All the People are Ministers of Christ

Our vision is to seek to live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to nurture persons of all ages and circumstances for faithful discipleship, and to transform faith into service to others.



Reverend Candee Martin

7801 Church Lane, Toano, Virginia 23168

Adult Sunday School begins at 9:15 AM

Welcome to our worship service! Mt. Vernon has been worshipping our Lord and serving the Greater Williamsburg Community since 1887. If we can be of any assistance to you, please let us know.

The Church in Ministry and Mission

- † **REMINDER: PRG (Post Pandemic Re-entering Group) Update:** A face mask is optional. We encourage you to keep social distance to minimize potential risk.
- † **Name Badge Basket—Please place your name badge in a basket by the Exit door as you leave the service.**

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **Bridge Group:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m-8 p.m. Tuesdays, fellowship hall.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex

Mt. Vernon Stewardship –January 8, 2023

Worship Attendance	Offering
In Person: 17 Streaming: 35	\$2,395.00
Total: 52	

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Centering Words, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* (Abingdon Press, 2021)
 Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Yearning, Words of Assurance B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* (Abingdon Press, 2022)
 Prayer of Illumination, Ann B. Day, *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, (United Church Press, Cleveland, Ohio, 1990, The Pilgrim Press)
 Reaffirmation of Faith, Thanksgiving, United Methodist Hymnal pp. 52-53., Copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.
 Charge, Blessing, *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1, Advent Through Pentecost, Worship Companion*, Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012)
 UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.
 CCLI Copyright Streaming License: 20688434, Size A.

****REMINDER:** The winter season is upon us and Covid cases are increasing in our area. PRG encourages wearing masks and social distancing. Please be mindful of those wearing masks and allow them to approach you according to their comfort level.

To be on the prayer list or One Call Now, please call church office 757-566-0162 or Rev. Candee Martin 703-907-9456.

The ongoing prayer requests will stay on for 2 months unless requested to stay on longer. If there is anyone who needs to be taken off the prayer list, please call church office.