

January 22, 2023 "Behind Every Great Church There is Prayer" 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Suzanne Latimer

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation Organist, Carol Kendall

Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Words

Where there is darkness, there is also light. Look for the light — places of love, joy, grace and hope.

*Introit "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" UMH #420 (v.1)

*Call to Worship

Leader: We come seeking God,

People: the one who guides us and protects us.

Leader: People of God, there is nothing to fear,

People: for God dwells in our hearts.

Leader: Let us shout with joy, for God is here!

People: Let us sing praises to the Holy One!

*Opening Prayer:

God of light, we come tired and weary, carrying many burdens. We come wondering if you are even here. We come seeking your face, seeking your love.

In this moment, Holy One, open our hearts to the mystery of your love.

Remind us that you are always with us and that you never leave us. Reassure us that you love us, even as you invite us to love one another.

In this time and space, may we say "yes" to you.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise "Jesus Call Us" UMH #398

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.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 4:12-23 (NRSVue) 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 Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH #206

The Message Shining Light into the Darkness Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response "This Little Light of Mine" UMH #585

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for this day — a day blessed with light and joy, a day blessed with hope and abundance.

May these gifts bring light to those lost in darkness, and chase away the shadow of death from those who have lost hope. Bless our lives to your service, in the name of the true Light. 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.

*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.

Special Music The Choir

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, as we seek your love and light, there are times when darkness invades our lives. Forgive us when we hide our true selves from you.

Forgive us when we quarrel with one another, allowing our pride to overcome our commitment to the community.

Forgive us when we give life's activities priority over following the ways of Jesus.

O God, open our hearts to your grace, as you once again fill us with your love and light. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

The gloom and grief of former times have passed away. The hope and glory of the latter times have washed over us like the tide of the sea. We, who once sat in darkness, behold the glory of God's holy light. Find joy and forgiveness in God's saving grace and redeeming love. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS #2129

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

*Benediction

Go as people of Light.

God's light shines upon us.

Go as people of Love,

Christ's love shows us the way.

Go as people of Spirit.

God's Spirit leads us home.

Go with God.

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

- **Funeral Services** for Sandra S. will be held at Mt. Vernon UMC on Monday, January 23rd at 1pm followed by interment at the James City Chapel Cemetery. A reception will be held in the fellowship hall after the interment.
- **Trustee Meeting:** Friday, January 27th at 9AM in the fellowship hall, followed by the Technology team meeting.
- **Finance Meeting:** Wednesday, February 1st at 2PM in the fellowship hall.
- **Admin. Council Meeting:** Wednesday, February 1st at 2:30 PM in the fellowship hall.
- **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 15, 2023

Worship Attendance	Offering
In Person: 19 Streaming: 50	\$2,928.00
Total: 69	

Copyright Notice

Centering Words, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Karin Ellis, *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)
Offertory Prayer, Words of Assurance, Benediction, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* (Abingdon Press, 2019)
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.**