

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 9am.

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.

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

June 25, 2023

“Behind Every Great Church
There is Prayer”

10:15am

Worship Leader

Donna Wilson

*Please stand as you are able. Please read in Unison in **Bold**.

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Organist, Carol Kendall

Lighting the Candles

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words

With each breath we take,
our spirits breathe in God's Spirit.
Our souls rejoice in the one
who fully knows our hearts.
God's grace sustains us,
even in the midst of our weaknesses.
As we exhale,
let us reflect upon our relationships
with our neighbors.
The same Spirit that energizes us
nourishes our neighbors.
Pondering God's steadfast love,
may we see the ways that God
is calling us in this time and space.

*Introit

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”

UMH #328

*Call to Worship (responsive)

When winds tear into our vessels,

God's grace will be our guide.

When insecurities mount up within our souls,

God's strength will be our guide.

When hardships weaken our resolve,
God's mercy will be our guide.
When insults rip and slander stains,
God's courage will be our guide.
When vulnerability saps our faith,
God's presence will be our guide.

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Holy God, remind us again
that your grace is sufficient for our needs,
your power is made perfect in weakness;
teach us to put our trust in you
rather than in our own wealth and cleverness.

**As we receive your word this day,
fill our hearts with joy,
fill our bodies with strength for the journey,
and fill our spirits with passion and purpose,
in the name of the one
who sent us into the world
to bring your kingdom here on earth. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"
UMH #117

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.

Epistle Lesson 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 (NRSVue)
Rev. Candee Martin

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— ⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Candee Martin

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 (v. 1,2)

The Message “Therefore I Am Content...”
Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response “I Am Thine, O Lord”
UMH #419 (v. 3,4)

Special Music David Sharp

Offering

Offertory Prayer

O Holy God, despite the sufferings
and challenges on our journeys,

your power transcends human weaknesses.

**We celebrate your generosity by sharing treasures,
talents, and time along our way.**

No matter where we travel or which hardships we face,
we sing your name in every corner of the earth.

**With songs of praise,
we share our gifts with your creation. 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.

***Prayer of Confession (responsive)**

God above us, God below us, God beside us,
God before us, God behind us, God within us,
God beyond us,
 your ways are as beyond us
 as the farthest star in the heavens,
 yet you are nearer to us
 than our very breath.

**We seek to be powerful and strong,
but your strength is made perfect
in our weakness.**

**Forgive our need to set our own course,
to determine our own fate.**

**Mold us into faithful disciples
and help us trust that we have what we need,
even as you send us forth
with nothing for the journey.**

**For the sake of Christ, make us weak,
that we may be strong in your Spirit. Amen.**

***Words of Assurance**

God's grace is sufficient for all our needs,
and is made perfect in weakness.

God's power is within us, guiding us,
remaking us, completing us,
reconciling us to one another.

This is good news indeed!

SENDING FORTH

***Hymn of Celebration "Leave It There"**

UMH #522

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Benediction

Rev. Candee Martin

Show the love of God in all you do.

Be faithful witnesses to the grace of Jesus Christ.

Live in the power and joy of the Holy Spirit.

May the love of God,

the power of Christ,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

dwell richly in you forever. **Amen.**

Postlude

*** Please stand as you are able.**

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex

Stewardship for week of June 18: \$1,178.00

Copyright Notice

*Centering Words, Call to Worship, Offertory Prayer -- Michelle L. Torigian, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* (Abingdon Press, 2020)

*Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012* (2011, Abingdon Press)

*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)

*Charge, Benediction, *Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2, Trinity Sunday Through Reign of Christ, Worship Companion*, Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor (Westminster John Knox Press, 2015)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

CCLI Copyright Streaming License: 20688434, Size A.

Announcements/Missions

- **Office Closure:** The office will be closed Monday, July 3rd through the 4th. Brenda will be taking a vacation day on the 3rd and the office will observe Independence Day on the 4th.
- **Cereal..Cereal..Cereal-**please consider picking up an extra box or two of cereal each week and deposit it in the basket in the narthex. These boxes will be donated to St. Olaf's Food Pantry and PGO Food Pantry. It's a need that we can help to fulfill. Thanks!
- **Hello Mt Vernon UMC!!** From His Hands is once again partnering with Meals on Wheels for the Summer Lunch Program for Kids!!! The program kicks off on June 19, 2023 through August 25, 2023. We desperately need homemade cookies to pack with the kids lunches. We are serving 300 children per day this year!!! This means we will need 600 cookies per day!! Please consider baking or buying cookies for the kids. It is a treat for them. If you cannot bake, Oreos are a big favorite!! Please put 2 cookies per plastic snack bag. Please no nuts or peanut butter. If you decide to donate cookies, please contact me at 757 603 6833 and I will add you to our list. I will pick up cookies on Sundays and Wednesdays. Thank you so much for your support!!! Theresa Kaufman
- **The Cemetery Association:** Those who would be so moved can contribute to the fund for the "Cemetery Fence Replacement." The total replacement cost is around \$10,000. Average price per foot is \$13.00 for a two rail fence. The Cemetery association is a 501-(C)3 fund.
- **16th Annual Jenna Bash Festival:** Saturday, August 5, 2023 11am – 4pm at LifePointe Christian Church 8841 Richmond Rd. To adopt a butterfly go to PGOVA.org/jenna-bash-festival.
- **Grass Cutters are needed** for the summer. The sign-up form is on the bulletin board in the hall. If you are able, it would be much appreciated.

- **St. Olaf's Food Pantry:** Please consider donating these items or monies to the food pantry: Pasta Roni, Banquet-Complete meal, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, El Paso Taco kit, toilet paper, feminine hygiene Products.
- **Bridge Group:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall.