

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.

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 16, 2023 “Behind Every Great Church 10:15am
 There is Prayer”

Worship Leader

Kathy Glindemann

*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

When you allow God’s word to shed light
along your garden paths,

you prepare the soil of your life to produce
beautiful, healthy growth.

May you see the light of God, feel the warmth of the Son,
and hear the Spirit in the music of the wind.

*Introit

“His Name Is Wonderful”

UMH #174

*Call to Worship (responsive)

You are the Sower, O God, we are the seed.

**God’s word is being sown into our lives this day
with the promise of new growth.**

You are the Lover, O God, we are the beloved.

**God’s love blossoms into our lives
with a beauty greater than the lilies of the field.**

You are the Healer, O God, we are the healed.

**God’s healing flows through our lives
with every beat of our heart.**

You are the Potter, O God, we are the clay.

**God’s hand fashions us to shine
with the glory of Christ’s light.**

Come! Let us worship the One
who sows us in fields of love.

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Loving God, gather us into this moment of reverence,
celebration, and growth.

As your children,
we long for renewed faith
and meaning in our lives.

**Christ's Parable of the Sower lights our path,
with its images of rocky ground, tangled thorns,
and green shoots.**

**May the light of your word illuminate our way
and become the joy of our hearts! Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise "For the Beauty of the Earth" UMH #92

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
imaginings, 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 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSVue)
Rev. Candee Martin

The Parable of the Sower

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside
the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got
into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the
beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying:
"Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some
seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up.
⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have

much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹If you have ears, hear!”

¹⁸“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
UMH #140 (v. 1,2)
The Message "What Kind of Soil?"
Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response "How Great Thou Art" UMH #77 (v. 3,4)

Special Music David Sharp

Offering

Offertory Prayer (responsive)

Master Gardener, as you have sown our lives
in a rich and fertile soil,
may we bear much fruit through our giving.

**With these offerings,
may your realm be brought to earth,
as we plant seeds of hope in the fields of life.
Bless our gifts and our ministry,
that the world may reap a harvest
of generosity and love. 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 Yearning (responsive)

Caretaker of our souls, we yearn to resist the allures
of status and prestige,
for we often pierce ourselves with wounds
of our own making.

**We long to bloom where we are planted,
that righteousness and peace
might flower in our lives.**

Free us of the fear of appearing foolish before others,
as we seek new growth in your Spirit.

**Nurture us with your grace and mercy,
that we might blossom and bloom
as followers of Christ. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance

Be assured that it's never too late!
The God of Love, and Christ the storyteller,
remind us to listen, understand, and act.
Prepare your hearts as garden beds for God's seeds
of joy and hope.
Receive God's grace today and every day.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration "Hymn of Promise" UMH #707

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Benediction

Rev. Candee Martin

May your path be gentle, your soil rich,
and your weeds small.

As you go forth into the world,
look for gardens to water, feed, and cultivate.

Nurture the love of God in others,
as well as in yourself. **Amen!**

Postlude

*** Please stand as you are able.
Hearing Assistance Devices** are available in the Narthex

Stewardship for week of July 9: \$2,020.00

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*Centering Words, Opening Prayer, Words of Assurance, Benediction, Sara Lambert, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* (Abingdon Press, 2022)

*Call to Worship, Prayer of Yearning, Offertory Prayer, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* (Abingdon Press, 2019)

*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)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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Announcements/Missions

- **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 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.