

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.

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 23, 2023

“Behind Every Great Church
There is Prayer”

10:15am

Worship Leader

Theresa Kaufmann

*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

While we are waiting, God is waiting with us.

God's promises are both now and yet to come.

Wait and see.

*Introit

“There's Something About That Name”

UMH #171

*Call to Worship (responsive)

We wait with hope,

for God's promises are sure.

We wait with patience,

for God's time is a mystery.

Come and worship.

We will wait upon the Lord together.

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Holy God of mystery and miracles,

reveal your presence to us,

as we gather in worship.

Send your Holy Spirit to descend upon us,

as angels once descended to Jacob.

Raise our thoughts,

**that we may reflect on your promises
and trust with hope
in promises yet to come.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise “God, Whose Love Is Reigning o’er Us”
UMH #100 (vs. 1,2,4,5)

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.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NLT)
Rev. Candee Martin

Parable of the Wheat and Weeds

²⁴Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. ²⁷“The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’ ²⁸“‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed. “‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked. ²⁹“‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’”

Parable of the Wheat and Weeds Explained

³⁶Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, “Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷Jesus replied, “The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.

⁴⁰“Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

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

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

TFWS #2223 (v. 1,2)

The Message

“Weeds: Their Potential for Goodness and Beauty”

Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

TFWS #2223 (v. 3,4)

Special Music

David Sharp

Offering

Offertory Prayer (responsive)

God of ancient times and future hope,

we bring these gifts to bless your world with hope.

Please bless these gifts,

that they may be a blessing to others.

And bless us with patience and faith,

that we may bring hope to a hurting world.

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)

Holy Mystery, we yearn to grow closer to you this day.
When our spirits grow unsettled
and groan in travail like our warming planet,
meet us in our need.

**When we seek isolation from the rancor of our time,
remind us how the wheat and the weeds grow
together until the harvest.**

**When we feel captive to the pressures of this world,
remind us that we need not succumb to our fears,
for you have given us a spirit of adoption
as children of God.**

Pursue us and hold us near, Gentle One,
that we may truly be set free. **Amen.**

*Words of Assurance

The One who hems us in, behind and before,
loves us with a fierce tenderness.

The One who pursues us to the farthest limit of the sea,
fills us with peace and grace beyond measure.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration “Pass It On” UMH #572

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Benediction (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

Wherever you are on life’s journey,
open your eyes to see the gate of heaven.

**The wings of the morning
bring us the presence of God.**

Whenever you are on the highway of life,
honor and respect the weeds that grow
among the wheat.

**The farthest reaches of the sea
are alive with God's Spirit.**

Wherever you are in the seasons of life,
take time to mark holy encounters
with the oil of gladness.

Our hearts are ablaze with God's holy fire.
Go as children of the living God. **Amen.**

Postlude

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

Stewardship for week of July 16: \$1,508.00

Copyright Notice

*Centering Words, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Mary Scifres, *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)

*Prayer of Yearning, Words of Assurance, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* (Abingdon Press, 2022)

*Benediction, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2014* (Abingdon Press, 2013)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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Announcements/Missions

- **Cemetery Meeting:** Wednesday, July 26th at 10AM.
- **Finance Meeting:** Wednesday, August 2nd at 2PM.
- **Administrative Council Meeting:** Wednesday, August 2nd at 2:30PM.
- **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.