

# *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.

# Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 3, 2023 “Behind Every Great Church 10:15am  
There is Prayer”

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Worship Leader

Suzanne Latimer

\*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

Let love guide your path,  
for love is the holiest path of all.

\*Introit

“This Is the Day ”

UMH #657

\*Call to Worship (responsive)

Holy, holy, holy.

**Holy God is here.**

Holy, holy, holy.

**Love has called us here.**

Holy, holy, holy.

**We gather to worship our holy God.**

\*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Holy God, we come this day,

in this sacred moment and this sacred space,  
aware that your holiness is always around us.

**When we turn aside from our daily tasks,**

**and we listen for your holy voice,**

**speak to us in holy mystery.**

**Surround us with your wondrous love,**

**that we might be wise enough**

**to understand your call  
and be brave enough  
to follow your path. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

UMH #64

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**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 16:21-28 (NRSVue)

Rev. Candee Martin

### **Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

### **The Cross and Self-Denial**

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

Hymn of Meditation “I Am Thine, O Lord”

UMH #419 (v. 1,3)

The Message “The Jesus Way”

Rev. Candee Martin

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Hymn of Response “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

TFWS #2129

Special Music

David Sharp

Offering

Offertory Prayer (responsive)

God of new beginnings, receive the gifts of our hands,  
that hospitality might be extended to those in need.

**Bless today’s offering,**

**that the hungry may be fed**

**and the thirsty may be satisfied.**

**May these gifts seal our commitment**

**to do what is just and honorable in your sight.**

**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.**

## **A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II**

Invitation to Holy Communion

Rev. Candee Martin

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

Precious Lord, strip away the masks we wear during the week to "get by."

Lay our souls bare before you today.

**Let me see genuine love.**

**Show me the love that hates evil and holds on to what is good. Strip away the mask that holds my emotions in check when I should share your love with someone.**

Let us see the joy of giving to others.

Show us the power of blessing those who persecute us.

**Strip away the mask that grins and lies and lets the world think otherwise about a child of God. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

An altar, a pew, a seat on the bus, a kitchen table:

all become holy places when we confess before God.

Today, in this holy place, God meets us, hears us and forgives us.

In this holy place,

God empowers us with genuine love  
to share with a hurting world.

Be for God, a holy loving people.

The Great Thanksgiving

[Responses, UMH p. 13-15]

Rev. Candee Martin

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Receiving (unison)

**We give thanks, O Gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

\*Hymn of Celebration “Where He Lead Me” UMH #338

Extinguishing the Candles

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

\*Commitment and Benediction (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

As we go out into the world this week, may each one of us seek to commit ourselves to living more like Jesus every day as it is described in Romans 12:

“Love from the center of who you are; don’t fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

**“Don’t burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don’t quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help [the] needy; be inventive in hospitality.**

“Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they’re happy; share tears when they’re down. Get along with each other; don’t be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don’t be the great somebody.

**“Don’t hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you’ve got it in you, get along with everybody. Don’t insist on getting even; that’s not for you to do. “I’ll do the judging,” says God. “I’ll take care of it.”**

“Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he’s thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don’t let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.”

As we go now in God’s peace, may we live our lives in the Jesus Way. **Amen.**

Postlude

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

**Stewardship for week of August 27: \$2,045.00**

### **Copyright Notice**

- \*Centering Words, Call to Worship, Opening 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)
  - \*Offertory Prayer, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* (Abingdon Press, 2022)
  - \*Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, Kwasi I. Kena, *The Africana Worship Book: Year A*, (Discipleship Resources, 2006, p. 149, 156)
  - \*Invitation to Holy Communion, The Great Thanksgiving, A Service of Word and Table II, Responses, United Methodist Hymnal, Copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.
  - \*Prayer After Receiving, June Boutwell, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012* (2011, Abingdon Press)
  - \*Commitment and Benediction, Romans 12:9-12 (The Message)
  - \*Prayer After Receiving, June Boutwell, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012* (2011, Abingdon Press)
- UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.  
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## Announcements/Missions

- **Office Closure:** The office will be closed on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Labor Day. Brenda will be off on Tuesday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & Friday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, and Theresa K. will cover the office hours.
- **The Jewell Bryant Circle:** will meet on Tuesday, September 5, at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Choir Practice:** The choir will resume practice on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.
- **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!
- **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.
- **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.