

# *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.

## Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

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Worship Leader

Jeanne Fulks

\*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

The love of God brings peace to our lives.

The judgment of God brings peace to our world.

\*Introit

"Spirit of the Living God "

UMH #393

\*Call to Worship (responsive)

Sing a new song to God.

**Sing of light and hope.**

Dance with laughter and joy.

**Dance with hearts full of love.**

Rejoice with strings and drums.

**Rejoice with justice and peace.**

Sing a new song to God.

\*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Ancient of days, we enter your presence

to remember and rejoice.

We come looking for your steadfast faithfulness

and your loving care.

**May we be a people who seek reconciliation**

**and genuine forgiveness with one another.**

**In remembrance and gratitude for your mercy**

**and your grace, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

UMH #89

## 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 18:15-20 (NRSVue)

Rev. Candee Martin

<sup>15</sup>“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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 (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.**

Hymn of Meditation "I Love to Tell the Story"

UMH #156 (vs.1,2)

The Message

Taking the First Step:  
Stories of Reconciliation

Rev. Candee Martin

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Hymn of Response "I Love to Tell the Story"

UMH #156 (vs. 3,4)

Special Music

The Choir

Offering

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Receive these gifts as offerings of love, O God.**

**Bless them with your grace,**

**that those who receive them**

**may find compassion and hope.**

**In your holy name, we pray. 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)

Gracious God, amid our songs of joy,  
our hearts are touched by fear.

**Sin plagues our world,  
even as we strive to build your realm.**

**Sorrow enters our lives,  
even as we put on false smiles  
and engage in empty conversations.**

Death lurks around every corner,  
even as we struggle against our own mortality.

**Reconcile us with your love and compassion,  
that we may be filled with joy, love,  
and hope this day. Amen.**

\*Words of Assurance

Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,  
God is with us.

Where God is, grace and compassion abide.

In the grace of God and the love of Christ,  
we are made one in ministry to the world.

## **SENDING FORTH**

\*Hymn of Celebration "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

UMH #557

## Extinguishing the Candles

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

\*Benediction (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

Just as God has called us here,  
God now sends us forth.

**Just as God has joined us here,  
God goes with us now.**

Go with the power of God  
to love and serve the world. Amen.

Postlude

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

**Stewardship for week of September 3: \$3,141.00**

### **Copyright Notice**

\*Centering Words, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* (Abingdon Press, 2019]

\*Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Yearning, Words of Assurance, Benediction Michael Beu,  
*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)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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## Announcements/Missions

- **Flowers placed in the sanctuary this morning are in memory of Gordon Ivey, from his Mom & Dad.**
- **The Jewell Bryant Circle:** Will meet on Monday, September 11th, at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- **S/PRRC committee:** Will meet Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1PM.
- **Nominations & Leadership Development Meeting:** Will meet on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM in the Wesley room.
- **Choir Practice:** The choir will practice on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.
- **Cemetery committee:** Will meet Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10AM in the Wesley room.
- **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 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.