

# *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.

## Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 17, 2023 "Behind Every Great Church 10:15am  
There is Prayer"

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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

O God, you are our strength and our salvation.

You uphold us and save us.

We offer you our very lives.

\*Introit

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit "

UMH #334

\*Call to Worship (responsive)

Give praise to God!

**Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves.**

It is God who forgives....

It is God who delivers....

**Give thanks and praise to the Lord!**

\*Opening Prayer (responsive)

God, our source and our salvation,

in love you made us,

and by love, you have redeemed us.

**Make your love for us bear fruit**

**in our forgiveness of others,**

**that in this life, we may know**

**your all-embracing compassion**

**and in the world to come**

**receive the everlasting joy of fellowship**

**you share with your son, Jesus  
Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”  
UMH #66

## **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 18:21-35 (Common English Bible)  
Rev. Candee Martin

Parable of the unforgiving servant

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?”

<sup>22</sup>Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

<sup>24</sup>When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. <sup>25</sup>Because the servant didn’t have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. <sup>26</sup>But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ <sup>27</sup>The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

<sup>28</sup>“When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’”

<sup>29</sup>“Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt. <sup>31</sup>“When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. <sup>32</sup>His master called the first servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn’t you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt. <sup>35</sup>“My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don’t forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

UMH #420

The Message When Forgiveness Isn’t Easy

Rev. Candee Martin

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Hymn of Response “Wonderful Words of Life” UMH #600

Special Music

The Choir

Offering

Offertory Prayer (responsive)

Savior God, you look upon our world with compassion.  
You also look upon our world with clarity  
and a zeal for justice.

**Use all we bring to life, and all we bring to you today,  
to fight for justice with mercy and compassion.  
Make us and our gifts part of the healing of the 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)

When we hear praises of your past help and triumph,  
we wonder where you are today, O God.

We look at our lives  
and see hurtful relationships.

**We look at our nation  
and see communities suffering under oppression.  
We look at our world  
and see injustice and brutality.  
We need your mighty arm  
to shatter wrongdoing and corruption.  
When we are weak,  
strengthen our faith.  
When we despair,  
renew our hope.  
When we give up,  
stand us up in your just cause,  
that we might live for you. Amen.**

\*Words of Assurance (responsive)

We stand before God — a God of justice,  
a God of forgiveness and acceptance.  
**This God raises us up and upholds us in our living.  
Praise be to God!**

## **SENDING FORTH**

\*Hymn of Celebration “Because He Lives” UMH #364

Extinguishing the Candles

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

\*Commissioning and Blessing Rev. Candee Martin

Go in peace,  
practice forgiveness,  
live the gospel,  
in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

May the blessing of God be with you,  
the love of Jesus fill you,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,  
now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Postlude

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

**Stewardship for week of September 10: \$1,898.00**

### **Copyright Notice**

\*Centering Words, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Yearning, Words of Assurance, Rebecca J. Kruger Gaudino, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* (Abingdon Press, 2022)

\*Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Commissioning and Blessing, *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2, Trinity Sunday Through Reign of Christ*, Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor (Westminster John Knox Press, 2014)

\*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

- **Fellowship time:** Will be following today's worship service in the fellowship hall.
- **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.