

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 9:15am.

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.

**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday**

October 1, 2023 “Behind Every Great Church 10:15am
There is Prayer”

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

Praise God who gives us the bread of life.

Praise Christ who unites in the breaking of the bread.

Praise Christ who binds us together
in the common cup.

Praise the Spirit who makes us one.

*Introit

“Thy Word Is a Lamp ”

UMH #601

*Call to Worship (responsive)

In Jesus, all Christians are one body.

**But we feel isolated from one another,
separated by customs and beliefs.**

In Jesus, all Christians are one body.

**But we don't worship alike.
Besides, we speak different languages.**

In Jesus, all Christians are one body.

Come, share the Lord!

*Opening Prayer (unison)

**Holy Mystery, Protector of the faithful,
glorious Spirit of wonder, Bread of heaven,
you have made us a little lower than the angels
and crowned us with glory and honor.
You have called us to be your witnesses,
to proclaim the good news in good times and in bad.
Help us to see ourselves in you,
the living body of the risen Christ,
broken and poured out to feed a hungry world.
Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me” UMH #509

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Parsons

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 14:22-33 (RSV)

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Parsons

Jesus Walks on the Water

²²Then [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a

ghost!” and they cried out for fear. ²⁷But immediately he spoke to them, saying, “Take heart, it is I; have no fear.”

²⁸And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; ³⁰but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “O man of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Parsons

Pastoral Prayer The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Parsons

Hymn of Meditation “Stand By Me” UMH #512 (v. 1,2)

The Message “Restless Seas”
 The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Parsons

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response “Stand By Me” UMH #512 (vs. 3,4,5)

Offering

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Compassionate and Generous God,
mindful of people whose worlds
are falling apart,
we offer these gifts and our very lives
for the repair of the world, near and far,
who need your care and ours –
in ways large and small. 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.

Special Music

The Choir

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II

Invitation to Holy Communion

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)

On days of glassy seas,
Lord, we believe you are with us.
**When the way is easy, we find it easy
to overlook your guiding hand.**

In seasons of storms, of imperiled journeys,
we may wonder where you are:

**We refuse to see trials as a call to faithfulness;
we feel abandoned.**

We are shaken by the interrupted path,
the fearful news, the ruptured relationship;

**We cling to the idea that you exist
to make our way level
and our passage easy.**

Remind us, O God, that it is in your nature
to come to us on the roughest of seas,
and always that you will hear our cry
as we lift these our silent confessions to you:

(A Time of Silent Confession)

This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance (responsive)

Here the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet
sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of
Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory
to God. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving for World Communion Sunday

[Responses, UMH p. 15-16]

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 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

UMH #474

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Commitment and Blessing (responsive)

With Christians around the world, go forth to bear witness in a divided and broken world.

Knit together in Christ's love, we leave here to share living bread with a world starving for spiritual food.

With Christians around the world, go forth blessed with the fellowship of Christ to be in union with God and the Holy Spirit.

Woven together in Christian hope, we leave to share the cup of salvation with a world dying of thirst.

Amen.

Postlude

*** Please stand as you are able.**

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex

Stewardship for week of September 24: \$.00

Flowers in the sanctuary are a gift from Jim Davis in memory of his wife, Bonnie. Thank you Jim, we appreciate your gift.

Copyright Notice

*Centering Words, Call to Worship, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2013 (2012, Abingdon Press)*

*Opening Prayer, Deborah Sokolove, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012 (2011, Abingdon Press)*

*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, Hans Holznagek, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019* (Abingdon Press, 2018)

*Invitation to Holy Communion, Words of Assurance, A Service of Word and Table II, Responses, United Methodist Hymnal, Copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

*Prayer of Confession?

*"The Great Thanksgiving for World Communion Sunday," Copyright © 1972 The Methodist Publishing House; Copyright © 1980, 1985, 1989, 1992 UMPH. Used by permission."

*Thanksgiving and Communion Responses, United Methodist Hymnal, Copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

*Prayer After Receiving, June Boutwell, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012 (2011, Abingdon Press)*

*Benediction, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022 (2021, Abingdon Press)*

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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Announcements/Missions

- **Jewell Bryant Circle:** Will meet Monday, October 2, at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Finance Meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, October 4th at 2pm.
- **Administrative Council Meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, October 4th at 2:30pm.
- **Trustee Meeting:** Will be held Friday, October 6th at 10AM.
- **Holiday Bazaar:** On Saturday, November 11th we will hold our Bazaar from 9:00AM to 1:30PM. More details soon.
- **Cereal...Cereal...Cereal:** We will concentrate on collecting ONLY cereal donations to St. Olaf's & PGO Food Pantries, so please consider picking up an extra box or two of cereal each week and deposit it in the basket in the narthex. 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.
- **Bridge Group:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall.