

# *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.

**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost  
Laity Sunday**

October 15, 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

Open my eyes that I may see,  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.

\*Introit “Take my Life and Let it Be” UMH #399 (v. 1)

\*Call to Worship (responsive)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

**Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

\*Opening Prayer (responsive)

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,  
**so God seeks and saves the lost.**

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,  
**so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.**

As a father receives a returning wayward son,  
**so God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.**

Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.

**Let us receive and welcome and rejoice over one another in the name of Jesus Christ**

\*Hymn of Praise "The Church's One Foundation" UMH #545

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Gospel                      The Great Commission                      Matthew 28:15-20  
Al Glindemann

New Testament Lesson      The Fellowship of Believers  
Acts 4:32-37                      Al Glindemann

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People                      Al Glindemann

Pastoral Prayer                      Al Glindemann

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 "Jesus Calls Us" UMH #398

The Message "We All Are the Laity" Al Glindemann

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Hymn of Response "Where He Leads Me" UMH #338

Special Music The Choir

Offering

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift,  
teach us to render to you all that we have and all that  
we are, that we may praise you, not with our lips only,  
but with our whole lives,  
turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our  
days into a living sacrifice to you;  
through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen**

**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)

Let us unite in prayer that Christ may dwell in our hearts.

**Oh Christ, our only Savior, so come to dwell in us that we may go forth with the light of your hope in our eyes, and with your faith and love in our hearts. Amen.**

\*Words of Assurance

We close our worship in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, according to whose most true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven on Pentecost lighting upon the disciples, to teach them, and to lead them into all truth, whereby we have been brought out of darkness into the clear light and true knowledge of your beloved son our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **SENDING FORTH**

\*Hymn of Celebration

“Are Ye Able”

UMH #530

Extinguishing the Candles

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

\*Benediction

Al Glindemann

May the blessing of God, fountain of living water,  
flow within us as a river of life.

May we drink deep of her wisdom.

May we never thirst again.

May we go through life refreshing many,

as a sign of healing for all;  
through the One who is Life eternal. Amen.

Postlude

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

**Hearing Assistance Devices** are available in the Narthex

**Stewardship for week of October 8: \$1,950.00**

### **Copyright Notice**

\*Centering Words, Philippians 4:8b (Common English Bible)

\*Call to Worship, *Sourcebook of Worship Resources Volume 3* (Communication Resources Inc. 2001)

Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Benediction, Book of Worship

\*Prayer of Illumination, UMH #602

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

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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## Announcements/Missions

- **Fellowship Time:** Following the worship service today in the Fellowship Hall.
- **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.