

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.

Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost

October 29, 2023 "Behind Every Great Church 10:15am
There is Prayer"

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

As patterns of life are woven
into rich textures of meaning
through our experiences,
so we enhance our sensitivities and strengths,
through worship.

Come then, today,
Divinity's sons and daughters,
to celebrate life!

*Introit

"Seek Ye First "

UMH #405

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Come together, everyone
and bring your stories
and sing your songs
and share in the Spirit.

**Let your feelings paint the sky
like a rainbow of banners and balloons.**

Let your thoughts fill the air
and come to life in bodies of sound
ringing out like a song
to which the whole world will be dancing.

**And let even the silence speak
with a thousand voices
in tribute to our loving, living God
and in celebration of our lives—
the priceless gift God has given us.**

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Invisible God, give us hearts to see
the things our eyes overlook.

Open our hearts to feel
the things our hands can't touch.

**Open our hearts to hear the still, small voice
which sounds like only silence
to our listening ears.**

Teach us to know you for what you really are –
**not flash or thunder,
but love, softly spoken,
flowing like a fountain,
bathing the soul and the skin. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise “Morning Has Broken” UMH #145

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
imaginings, 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.**

New Testament Lesson Acts 8:26-40

(Common English Bible)

Rev. Candee Martin

Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

²⁶An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, “At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) ²⁷So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) ²⁸He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Approach this carriage and stay with it.”

³⁰Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you really understand what you are reading?”

³¹The man replied, “Without someone to guide me, how could I?” Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him.

³²This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn't open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.
Who can tell the story of his descendants
because his life was taken from the earth?

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?” ³⁵Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. ³⁶As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, “Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?” ³⁸He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

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 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

UMH #277 (vs.1,2)

The Message "Sharing our Stories" Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response "Spirit of the Living God"

UMH #393 (sing twice)

Special Music

The Choir

Offering

Offertory Prayer (unison)

O Gracious God,

we dedicate our lives

and all that we have

to your work of life, of love, of peace.

Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage.

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)

O God who is love,
when you seem so far away from us,
remind us to reach within
to the fountain of feelings at the core of ourselves
and there, let us find you.

**When you seem so unconcerned,
so massive, so impassive,
so insulated by your power,
so distant by your expansiveness,
remind us to reach out
to the hand of a child,
to the face of a friend,
and there let us find you.**

And in times when we have nothing to feel
and there is no one to touch,
**let us never close our hearts or our hands,
but always, let us be open to you,
and let us be open today; here and now.
Amen.**

*Words of Assurance (responsive)

There is no greater joy in the heart of God
than the moment when the child within us
opens to the gift of forgiveness.

**God's Spirit reaches out to assure us
of our welcome in Christ.**

**In the name of Jesus the Christ, we are God's
by grace. With great joy, we are made alive.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration "Blessed Assurance" UMH #369

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Commissioning and Blessing Rev. Candee Martin

Go from here with arms wide open,
and with love in your hearts
secure in the knowledge that each one of us
is the beautiful and beloved child of God.

No matter what happens, may you always remember that.
Always believe in yourselves as the much-loved children of
God.

Go out and follow the dreams of your heart.
If your dreams go up in smoke, build new dreams.
Grab hold of your future
and change your world for the good...
for the common good...
as Jesus the Christ has changed yours.

Strive to be everything you were created to be.
Be at peace with God, your neighbor, and yourself.
Share your belovedness with others,
 always remembering that
 they too are God's beloved children.
Go in God's peace,
 sharing the gift of God's stories in your stories,
 with God's blessing on your life. **Amen.**

Postlude

<p style="text-align: center;">* Please stand as you are able. Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex</p>
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Stewardship for week of October 22: \$1,880.00

Copyright Notice

*Centering Words, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Illumination, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Yearning, Words of Assurance, Commissioning and Blessing (adapted), 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

- **Church Clean-up:** Will be Friday, November 3rd at 10AM. Please consider helping if you are able.
- **Daylight Savings Time Ends:** Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed on November 4th.
- **Charge Conference:** Will be held Sunday, November 5th at 2:30PM AT Chestnut Memorial UMC.
- **Veterans Day:** There will be a gathering at the church cemetery on Friday, November 10th at 10am for a time of prayers and to place flags on the graves of our veterans.
- **Holiday Bazaar:** This is a church-wide event, and everyone's help is needed. During the week of November 6-10, we will begin setting up, pricing, etc., from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM each day. At the same time, we will be accepting donations.
 - As you prepare for the holidays, search through your holiday decorations (fall, Christmas, even Easter, and anything you think might sell.) Also, trees, tree decorations, yard decorations, handmade items, candles, wreaths, costume jewelry, Hummel figurines, clean toys. Just anything someone can use for decorations or a gift for someone else. If you find something you do not want, please donate to the Bazaar. Please ensure that your donated items are clean.
 - Baked goods and Brunswick stew may be brought in on Friday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and early Saturday morning before the Bazaar is open to the public. Please price your baked goods. If you are planning to make Brunswick stew, please add your name and number of quarts you plan to make on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. That way, we will know how much we have for sale. We sold less stew at our Bazaar last time, so we are going to plan on making 50 quarts this time. One recipe will make 6/7 quarts. The recipe is available in the Fellowship Hall with the sign-up and pre-order sheets. Containers for the stew are in the Choir room. If

you need to bring stew earlier, it can be put in the refrigerator or freezer in the kitchen. Thanks for everyone's help.

- **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.