

# *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-Third Sunday After Pentecost All Saints Sunday

November 5, 2023 “Behind Every Great Church 10:15am  
There is Prayer”

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Worship Leader

Suzanne Latimer  
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

Let the saints sing for joy. We are children of the living God.  
We will see God face to face.

\*Introit

“Fill My Cup, Lord ”

UMH #641

\*Call to Worship (responsive)

Come into God’s presence with singing and praise.

**We join the assembly of faithful followers.**

Bring dancing and melody, joy and laughter.

**We gather with the great cloud of witnesses who  
came before us.**

Sing a new song to God, even as we remember ancient  
wisdom.

**We embrace the saints, as we proclaim the  
foundation of our hope.**

\*Opening Prayer (unison)

**Faithful Redeemer, you are the beginning and end of all things. You promise to wipe away every tear, that death and mourning will be no more. You make your home among us, and abide with us as our God. Teach us to live like the saints you call us to be, that we may truly be your people, living and doing your will, in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise “For All the Saints” UMH #711 (vs. 1,2,4)

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Rev. Candee Martin

**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 5:1-12 (NRSVue)

Rev. Candee Martin

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

Hymn of Meditation “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

UMH #712

The Message “You Are Blessed, Be a Blessing”

Rev. Candee Martin

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Hymn of Response “Shall We Gather at the River

UMH #723

Offering

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Holy God, we thank you for the great cloud of witnesses who surround us as we worship. Their diversity reminds us of your infinite grace to all your creatures. Thank you for a vision of a world at peace: paradise restored, where no one hungers, no one thirsts, and no one is lacking.

**You guide us to the source of living water and invite us to drink deeply of your love. Your magnificent generosity evokes our deepest thanks. And so receive these offerings, as we share our gifts with others as we look to the day when we may join that great cloud of witnesses. 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)

Holy God, we so often fail to remember how profoundly you love us.

**You bless us, even when we are at our wit's end.**

You created us, and love us as we are, even as you inspire our desires to be better through your Holy Spirit.

**Forgive us when we fail to remember that we are the Body of Christ, saints-in-progress.**

Empower us to begin anew, encouraged by the stories of those who live in your eternal presence.

**In the name of Jesus, and for the sake of the gospel, we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Beloved, we are the children of God. Don't fear failure. It is endemic to our human nature. Learn from your mistakes, and cherish the forgiving grace of God. Give thanks for all you are, and go forward in faith, knowing that God is faithful. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving for All Saints Sunday

[Responses, UMH p. 15-16]

Sandra Stafford  
James Jennings  
Bill Watkins  
Ray Morgan  
Bill Martin  
Bill Welch  
Rosemary Wilson  
Anne Coley  
Clyde Sorrels

Dora Mae Martin  
Lanny Smith  
Allison Comma  
Joseph Gately  
Herman Sweeney  
John Wilson  
Betty Wilson  
Vicki Morgan  
Jean Taylor

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 “When We All Get to Heaven”  
UMH #701

Extinguishing the Candles

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

\*Benediction

Go into the world as the living body of Christ,  
bringing eternal life to all who seek God’s face.  
**Amen.**

Postlude

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

**Stewardship for week of October 29: \$1,180.00**

### **Copyright Notice**

\*Centering Words, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, Offertory Prayer, Beryl A. Ingram, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* (Abingdon Press, 2019)

\*Call to Worship, Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022 (2021, Abingdon Press)*

\*Opening Prayer, Benediction, Deborah Sokolove, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021 (2020, 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)

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

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\*Prayer After Receiving, June Boutwell, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012 (2011, Abingdon Press)*  
UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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# **ALL SAINTS**

Allison Comma: May 8, 2022, Daughter of Alan & Helen Palmer

Ray Morgan: September 30, 2023, Dianne Hardie's brother

Lanny Smith: June 2, 2023, Member of Mt. Vernon UMC

Joseph Gately: April 2023, Friend of Bob & Carol Dishman

Bill Martin: April 2023, Friend of Bob & Carol Dishman

James Jennings: April 24, 2023, Member of Mt. Vernon UMC

Dora Mae Martin: January 27, 2023, Member of Mt. Vernon UMC

Sandra Stafford: January 15, 2023, Member of Mt. Vernon UMC

Herman Sweeney: April 2023, Friend of Bob & Carol Dishman

Bill Watkins: July 23, 2023, Member of Mt. Vernon UMC

Bill Welch: Donna Wilson's father

John Wilson: Donna Wilson's Father-in-law

Rosemary Wilson: Donna Wilson's Mother-in-law

Betty Wilson: Family friend of Donna Wilson

Anne Coley: Family friend of Donna Wilson

Vicki Morgan: Family friend of Donna Wilson

Clyde Sorrels: Donna Wilson's Brother-in-law

Jean Taylor: Donna Wilson's cousin & Sarah Welch's niece



## Announcements/Missions

- **Charge Conference:** Will be held today, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM at Chestnut Memorial UMC.
- **Veterans Day:** There will be a gathering at the church cemetery on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> 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.