

# *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-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 12, 2023 "Behind Every Great Church 10:15am  
There is Prayer"

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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

A Moment of Silence in Honor of Our Veterans

Rev. Candee Martin

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words

You, O God, are our God.

You are with us in all the times of life  
to offer hope and light and comfort.

We come to you now with thanks:

thanks for our freedom; thanks for our peace;  
thanks for our prosperity and security.

As we have observed Veterans Day this week,

we thank you, especially, for the women and men  
who gave of themselves in times of war  
to help to ensure the blessings that we enjoy.

The names, the faces, the stories come to us, once again,  
and we honor them,

their courage, their sacrifice, their willingness  
to put themselves in harm's way  
for a better cause.

May we never forget.

A Moment of Grateful Recognition

Russ Hobgood

\*Introit

"His Name Is Wonderful"

UMH #174

\*Call to Worship (responsive)

This nation, under God, depends on each generation accepting the call to serve both God and country.

**Everywhere we look,  
we are reminded  
of the commitment our veterans made  
in presenting their bodies  
as a living sacrifice.**

So today we honor them as we shout a resounding....

**Thank you!**

Thank you!

That we are free to come and to worship  
the One who presented his body  
as the ultimate living sacrifice for all.

**Come, let us worship!**

\*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Creator God, we could never thank  
our military men and women enough  
for their courageous service  
and sacrifice to our country and its people.

**Yet today, we lift up our voices  
to express our gratefulness and honor  
to these military troops  
both from the past and present.**

Show us ways  
in our communities, churches, and families  
to thank and love them better.

**Keep and protect  
these heroes and their families,  
in the powerful name of  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise      “America the Beautiful”      UMH #696

**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.**

Epistle Lesson      Hebrews 10:11-18; 23-25 (NLT)

Rev. Candee Martin

**<sup>11</sup>Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.**

**<sup>13</sup>There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. <sup>14</sup> For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.**

**<sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says,**

**<sup>16</sup>"This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord:**

**I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."**

**<sup>17</sup>Then he says, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds."**

**<sup>18</sup>And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices....**

**<sup>23</sup>Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. <sup>24</sup>Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup>And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one**

**another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.**

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 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

UMH #431

The Message "Forgiven and Free" Rev. Candee Martin

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Hymn of Response "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

TFWS #2191

Special Music

The Choir

Offering

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Giving God, our gifts are tokens of our intentions:**

**to remember war's horror,**

**to bring peace,**

**to end conflict,**

**to counter suffering,**

**to raise hopes,**

**to bring new life.  
Bless our gifts for they reflect  
the Sacrificed One, Jesus,  
who gave his life on a cross. 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.**

A Prayer of Grateful Remembrance (responsive)  
Rev. Candee Martin

Yesterday, our nation officially paused for 24 hours in  
remembrance of Veterans Day, or, for some, Armistice Day.  
While its observance is a civic holiday, and not a religious  
one, it does serve as a reminder to be grateful for those who  
have risked their lives for us. It also reminds us to remain  
faithful in our prayers for the healing and well-being of our  
men and women in uniform who continue to endure so much  
on our behalf.

No holiday in their honor can make up for the hours lost, the  
innocence lost, the loves, limbs and lives lost, but we can  
pray for our vets. We can ask God to make up the balance,

to cover the debts we as a society can never make up. We can pray and ask for blessings beyond our human treasure. Every soldier, sailor, airman takes their oath knowing they may be called upon to pay the ultimate sacrifice. Let us join together as a grateful congregation in praying these heartfelt words offered by Mark Herringshaw. May we pray:

**Lord, we cannot repay this gift they give us. For those who have suffered as a result of their sacrifice, we ask for healing, favor, peace, and, in some cases, forgetfulness. Lift from them the cares and burdens of violence. When they return home, give them opportunities to fulfill their own potentials and dreams. Open doors for them, even when some doors are closed. God, bless our veterans. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

\*Hymn of Celebration "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"  
UMH #717 (vs. 1,2,4,5)

Extinguishing the Candles

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

\*Benediction (responsive) Rev. Candee Martin

Past struggles shape us.

**We are called to remember their impact.**

The heroism of ordinary men and women challenges us.

**We are called to honor service.**

The sacrifice of military personnel and civilians humbles us.

**Greater love has no one than this;**

**that one lays down one's life for another. Amen.**

Postlude

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

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

**Stewardship for week of November 5: \$3,936.00**

*We sincerely hope you have felt the presence of  
the Lord in our Worship Service this morning.*

*We appreciate your attendance and support.*

*Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church  
7801 Church Lane  
Toano, VA 23168*

### **Copyright Notice**

\*Centering Words, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer: This liturgy was prepared for Veterans Day 2018, which was also the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, by (then) CPT Jenna Moon, the Chaplain of the 321st Ordnance Battalion in Cross Lanes, WV. In 2018, she had been serving in the military for 16 years and was the former pastor of three United Methodist churches in Grantsville MD. Married to the Rev. Jonathan Moon and proud mother to J.J. Posted November 1, 2018 By WVUMC News.

\*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, Benediction, David Sparks, Prayers to Share, Year C, Responsive Prayers for Each Sunday of the Church Year, Wood Lake Books Inc. (2003)

\*A Prayer of Grateful Remembrance, Mark Herringshaw, Prayer, Plain and Simple: A Prayer for Veterans on Veterans Day (2009)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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## Announcements/Missions

- **Susanna Wesley Circle:** Will meet Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the home of Carol K. Please bring your backpack items when you come.
- **S/PPRC meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Wesley room.
- **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.