

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.

Reign of Christ Sunday After Pentecost

November 26, 2023 "Behind Every Great Church 10:15am
There is Prayer"

Worship Leader

Theresa Kaufman

*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

God has been with us and knew us
before we were even born.

The one who calls us to love
has been loving us longer
than we have drawn breath.

Sink into the arms of Love this day
and trust the hand that holds you.

*Introit "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" UMH #176

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Offer God your worship and your praise.

**Before God formed us in our mothers' wombs,
God knew and loved us.**

Offer Christ your love and your devotion.

**Before we drew our first breath,
Christ consecrated us as his own.**

Offer the Spirit your gratitude and your thanksgiving.

**Before we heard the call to heal the world,
the Spirit sustained our every heartbeat.**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We will offer God our worship and our praise.

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Wrap us in the arms of your love, Holy One,
for we need to feel your healing touch.

**As we gather to worship you this day,
humble our hearts, teach us patience,
and touch us with kindness.**

Open our eyes,
that we may see ourselves as you see us.

Open our hearts to your Spirit of gentleness,
that our words may be true,
and our love may be pure.

**Bind us in a love that does not fail or fade,
that we may bear all things, believe all things,
and hope all things in your love,
which never ends. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

UMH #384

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.

Gospel Lesson 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NRSVue)

Rev. Candee Martin

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away

all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

“The Gift of Love”

UMH #408

The Message “Love's Way is the Jesus' Way”

Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

TFWS #2223

Special Music

The Choir

Offering

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Source of every good gift,
you have watched over us
all the days of our lives —
guiding our ways,
protecting us from harm,
and showering us with your blessings.
Receive these offerings from our grateful hearts,
and bless the world with our heartfelt thanks,
that all might know your amazing gift of love.**

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)

God of truth and love,

we yearn for certainty in an uncertain world.

**Grant us the courage to proclaim the words
you place in our mouths.**

Remind us that your love alone,
softens the heart and mind,

allowing us to receive your mysterious ways.

**When we fear that others will not see things our way,
remind us that we all see in a mirror dimly.**

**Silence the clanging cymbals that distract us,
and harken us to your voice once more,
that we may abide in your love. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance

The one who formed us in our mothers' wombs
continues to shape our lives today.

Rejoice in the good news:

God knows us and loves us as we are.

God's love heals our wounds,

and gives us hope for the time before us.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

UMH #557

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Benediction (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

God sends us forth with words of love on our lips.

Christ sends us forth with acts of love in our deeds.

The Spirit sends us forth with the spirit of love
sustaining our very lives.

**We go in the power of God's love
to be ambassadors of Christ's love and peace.
Amen.**

Postlude

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

Stewardship for week of November 19: \$16,824.00

*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, Offertory Prayer, Benediction, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019* (Abingdon Press, 2018)

*Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Yearning, Words of Assurance, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* (Abingdon Press, 2021)

*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)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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Announcements/Missions

- **Cemetery Meeting:** Will be held Tuesday, November 28th at 10AM.
- **Finance Meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, December 6th at 2PM.
- **Administrative Council Meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, December 6th at 2:30PM.
- **Fellowship Time:** The 3rd Sunday of every month there will be a Fellowship Time after the Sunday Service.
- **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.