

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.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024 "Behind Every Great Church 10:15am
There is Prayer"

Worship Leader

Donna Wilson

*Please stand as you are able. Please read in Unison in **Bold**.

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Organist, Jeanne Fulks

Lighting the Candles

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words

God knows us better than we know ourselves.

God calls us, inviting us on a journey of love.

*Introit

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

UMH #349

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Who is calling us?

Come and see.

What might happen?

Come and see.

Jesus calls to us, "Follow me."

We follow the one who calls us.

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Creating God, how deeply you know us.

In the mystery of your love,

you see who we are and who we might become.

Our bodies are your creation;

they are wonderfully made.

Our minds reflect your handiwork.

Our spirits are a gift from you.

You call us by name and invite us to follow.

Lead us now into the depths of your love. Amen.

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

John 1:43-51 (NRSVue)

Rev. Candee Martin

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

“Blessed Assurance”

UMH #369

The Message

Come and See...

Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response

“He Touched Me”

UMH #367

Invitation to the Offering (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

Can anything good come out of Nazareth?

Come and see.

Can this church be the body of Christ?

Come and see.

Can our gifts make a difference in the world?

Come and see.

Let us give generously this morning,

that the whole world

may come and see

the blessings of God.

Offering

Offertory Prayer (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

God of vision and courage,

you call us to be your hands and feet in the world.

In a world full of need,

use our gifts and our offerings,

our time and our talents,

to bless those in need of your blessings.

Through these gifts,

may others come to see your grace

and hear your call in their lives. **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 (Unison)

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 a thousand voices, we yearn to hear your call:

when we lie down to sleep,

when we rise to meet the sun,

when we offer our industry,

when we gather with family and friends.

Speak to us, once more, Lord of life,
when we mistake your call
or dismiss it as a dream.

**Hem us in with your power and your might,
that we may feel your hand leading us
and your love guiding our way,**

*Words of Assurance (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

God never gives up on us,
and Christ never forsakes us.

Rejoice and be glad,
for we are one in the Spirit;
we are one in the Lord.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration

“We Are the Church”

UMH #558

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Benediction (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

Wherever you go,
speak words of love and grace
to everyone you meet.

**We will speak words of hope and faith
to gladden the heart and strengthen the spirit.**

As those who are called by the living God,
invite others to hear Christ’s call in their lives.

**We will remind all of God’s children
that God is speaking still. Amen.**

Postlude

Jeanne Fulks

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

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex

Stewardship for week of January 21: \$2,650.93

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, Mary Petrina Boyd, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* (Abingdon Press, 2020)

*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 the Offering, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Yearning, Words of Assurance, Benediction, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024* (Abingdon Press, 2023)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

CCLI Copyright Streaming License: 20688434, Size A.

Announcements/Missions

- **Lenten Books:** Please pick up your addressed envelope from the box by the sanctuary entrance, enclosed is your Lent book for the season. If not picked up by February 4th they will be mailed out.
- **Trustee Meeting:** Will be held Friday, February 2nd at 10AM.
- **Finance Meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, February 7th at 2PM.
- **Administrative Council Meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, February 7th 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!
- **Bridge Group:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall.