

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

757-566-0162

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.

Good Friday Service

March 29, 2024 “Behind Every Great Church 6:00pm
 There is Prayer”

Worship Leader

Suzanne Latimer

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

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Organist, Carol Kendall

Lighting the Candles

Welcome

Centering Words

God meets us in our suffering.

As we sit in the presence of Jesus' suffering,
be comforted that it is not the end of his story.
Nor is it the end of ours.

*Introit “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” UMH #301

*Call to Worship (responsive)

In sorrow, we gather this evening.

Even now, we proclaim our hope in Christ.

In remembrance of his suffering, we gather to worship.

Even now, we find rest in the courage of Christ.

In contemplation and reflection, we gather to pray.

Our faith and confidence in Christ is sure.

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

God of suffering and sorrow,
remind us that we are not alone
in our suffering and sorrow.

**Open our hearts to Christ's passion,
to his suffering and sorrow,**

**that we may find the wisdom and strength,
to face our own trials and suffering. Amen.**

*Hymn

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

UMH #292

The Good Friday Story According to the Gospel of Mark

First Lesson

Mark 15:1-5 (NRSVue)

Jesus before Pilate

¹As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Hymn

“O How He Loves You and Me”

TFWS #2108

A Moment of Quiet Reflection

Second Lesson

Mark 15:6-15 (NRSVue)

Pilate Hands Jesus Over to Be Crucified

⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³They shouted back, “Crucify him!” ¹⁴Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

Hymn

“O Lamb of God”

TFWS #2113 (vs. 1,2)

A Moment of Quiet Reflection

Third Lesson Mark 15:16-20 (NRSVue)
The Soldiers Mock Jesus

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" UMH #286

A Moment of Quiet Reflection

Fourth Lesson Mark 15:21-32 (NRSVue)
The Crucifixion of Jesus

²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and

believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Hymn “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” UMH #297
A Moment of Quiet Reflection

Fifth Lesson Mark 15:33-39 (NRSVue)
The Death of Jesus

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Moment of Quiet Reflection

Hymn “The Old Rugged Cross” UMH #504

Evening Meditation If This Isn’t Love Jeanne Fulks

A Moment of Quiet Reflection

The Paschal (Christ) Candle is Extinguished

Hymn “Were You There” UMH #288

***There is no benediction; all leave the church in silence.
[The omission of benedictions at the end of the liturgies
of both Holy Thursday and Good Friday indicates their
continuity with each other and with the Service of
Easter.]***

Copyright Notice

*Liturgy for the Lighting of the Paschal (Christ) Candle, *Contributed by Jeanyne Slettom* ©2009 Process & Faith.

*Centering Words, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Benediction, Mary Scitres, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* (Abingdon Press, 2022)

*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)

*Prayer of Yearning, Words of Assurance, Amy B. Hunter, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024* (Abingdon Press, 2023)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

CCLI Copyright Streaming License: 20688434, Size A.