

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.

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

“Behind Every Great Church
There is Prayer”

10:15am

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 & Announcements

Centering Words

God speaks to our hearts in silence.

Be still and touch God's presence.

*Introit “Surely the Presence of the Lord”

UMH#328

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Listen to the stars.

They tell God's glory!

They have no words.

Yet in their beauty, God speaks.

Listen to creation.

It sings God's song of peace.

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Creator God, you call us from our busy lives

to find knowledge and rest in this holy place.

Center our spirits in your love.

Open our hearts to your transforming word,

for we are ready to align our spirits,

remember your words,

and walk in your paths.

**Guide us in wisdom and truth
as we seek to follow your word. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise “Lord of the Dance” UMH #261

Lenten Journey from Light to Darkness

There is so much during the day that clamors for our attention. Friends, family, work, classes, household tasks. And the noise! We are bombarded with sound, from the clock that awakens us to the telephone, the radio, the television, the conversations that we have or overhear. Where is the time and place to listen for the still, small voice of God? Sometimes it seems that God would have to speak in a whirlwind to be heard above the clamor! Listen now. There is a place of quiet rest, and it is the place where God dwells within you. Close your eyes. Be aware of the place. In Lent, we journey to the parts of ourselves known only to God, beneath the clamor. Let the story of Jesus reach us there. Let it teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.

(Silent time.)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of violence in the world and to the Earth.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray: (unison)

Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you, but continue to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Congregational Sung Response I Love to Tell the Story
[refrain only] UMH No. 156

**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

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 2:13-22 (Common English Bible)

Rev. Candee Martin

¹³It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. ¹⁵He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged currency. ¹⁶He said to the dove sellers, “Get these things out of here! Don’t make my Father’s house a place of business.” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written, *Passion for your house consumes me.*

¹⁸Then the Jewish leaders asked him, “By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?”

¹⁹Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple and in three days I’ll raise it up.”

²⁰The Jewish leaders replied, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?” ²¹But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had

said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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 “Sweet Hour of Prayer” UMH #496

The Message “Soup for Our Souls” Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response “Near to the Heart of God” UMH #472

Offering

Offertory Prayer (responsive)

Holy One, you shape our lives with great beauty,
showing us paths that lead to righteousness
and blessing.

**We bring these gifts with grateful hearts,
that we may use them to build your community
of justice and righteousness.**

**We offer you our very lives,
knowing that you will lead us in the path
of holy service. 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.**

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 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 offer our prayer before God and one another.

Prayer of Yearning (responsive)

God of love and truth, we long to walk in your paths.
We yearn to follow you
in the ways that lead to life and wholeness.

**Yet it is hard to know if we are taking the right paths
on our journey of faith.**

**We worry that we will wander off,
even when we don't mean to.**

**May your love set us right, forgive our mistakes,
and show us where we should go. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

God promises forgiveness,
that we may be blameless and innocent
of any transgression.

The Great Thanksgiving for Early in Lent [UMH p. 15-16]

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 "Lord, Speak to Me" UMH #463

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Benediction (responsive)

Blessed by God's wisdom,
we go forth refreshed and renewed.
Called by Christ,
we go now to serve.

Amazed by God's love,
we go now to love.

Postlude

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

Stewardship for week of February 28: \$1,490.00

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

757-566-0162

Copyright Notice

*Centering Words, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Yearning, Words of Assurance, Mary Petrina Boyd, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024 (2023, Abingdon Press)*

*Lenten Journey from Light to Darkness, Jeanyne Slettom, Ph.D. and is made available through Process & Faith, a program of the Center for Process Studies. Used by permission.

*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)

*"The Great Thanksgiving for Early in Lent," Copyright © 1972 The Methodist Publishing House; Copyright © 1980, 1985, 1989, 1992 UMPH. Used by permission."

*A Service of Word and Table II, Responses, United Methodist Hymnal, Copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

*Prayer After Receiving, June Boutwell, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012 (2011, Abingdon Press)*

*Benediction -- Mary Scifres, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021 (Abingdon Press, 2020)*

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

CCLI Copyright Streaming License: 20688434, Size A.

