

# *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.

# Palm Passion Sunday

## Sixth Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2024

“Behind Every Great Church  
There is Prayer”

10:15am

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Worship Leader

Donna Wilson

\*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

Exaltation and joy.

Passover sacrifice and betrayal.

Death and life.

Such is the terrain of Holy Week.

Such are the waters that sweep

through the holy mystery of our faith —

the waters that reveal the joy

and the cost of discipleship.

\*Introit

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

UMH #295

\*Call to Worship (responsive)

Sing glory to God in the highest heaven.

**The king is coming!**

Even if we keep silent,

the stones will shout it out.

**The king is coming!**

The king is coming!

**Blessed is the one who comes**

**in the name of the Lord.**

\*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Blessed One, our hearts sing with the children  
when we see you ride into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Our lips shout our praises,

as you empty yourself to become servant of all.

**Open our hearts to the depth of your love,  
that we might walk faithfully with you  
during the long week ahead. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise “All Glory, Laud and Honor” UMH #280

Lenten Journey from Light to Darkness

We have gathered here, week after week, sharing a common quest for a deeper faith and a deeper experience of the divine. I invite you now to close your eyes and let go of the things that distract and concern you. Listen! The time is drawing near. Jesus is preparing to enter Jerusalem. How will we greet him? Will we follow him all the way to the Cross? The power of Jesus is that he lived what he taught, even when it led to his death. He lived with an abiding awareness of God, radiating the light of God in all he said and did. But that light was too much for the world. There are forces today, as there were in ancient Judea, that conspire to put it out. Where are we in this drama? What are we willing to risk to follow Jesus?

(Silent time.)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray: (unison)

**Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the**

**choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. 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)

Theresa Kaufman

**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

Luke 19:28-40 (NRSVue)

Theresa Kaufman

### **Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

<sup>28</sup>After [Jesus] had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup>When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup>saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup>So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup>They said, "The Lord

needs it.” <sup>35</sup>Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup>As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup>saying,

“Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!”

<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” <sup>40</sup>He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People

Theresa Kaufman

Pastoral Prayer

Theresa Kaufman

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 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” UMH #278

The Message “God’s Living Stones” Theresa Kaufman

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Hymn of Response “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” UMH #277

Special Music

The Choir

Offering

Offertory Prayer (responsive)

Theresa Kaufman

We thank you, Christ Jesus,  
for your steadfast faithfulness  
and your humble leadership in our world.

**Bless the gifts we return to you now,  
that they may guide others to follow you  
and walk humbly in your ways. 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 Confession (responsive) Theresa Kaufman

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.  
By your grace, help us,  
for trouble is never far away.

**We can't hear or see clearly.  
Our bodies waste away from grief and sorrow.  
Our strength fails us.  
Our misery is more than we can bear.**

Yet, even in the depth of our despair, Lord,  
we place our trust in you.

**You are our God,  
our very help in times of trouble.  
Let your face shine upon us and save us  
in your unfailing and steadfast love! Amen.**

\*Words of Assurance

Theresa Kaufman

All who call on the name of the Lord are answered.  
There is nothing to fear.  
The Lord stands beside you to help.  
This is the day that the Lord has made!  
Rejoice and be glad.

### **SENDING FORTH**

\*Hymn of Celebration

“Precious Name”

UMH #536

Extinguishing the Candles

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

\*Benediction

Theresa Kaufman

People of God, go together  
into this hard and holy week.  
Trust in God.  
Be filled with the Spirit.  
Walk with Christ to the end.  
For Christ's times are in our hands now,  
as ours have ever been in his. **Amen.**

Postlude

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

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

**Stewardship for week of March 17: \$1,931.00**

*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*

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\*Lenten Journey from Light to Darkness, Jeanyne Sletton, 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)\*Offertory Prayer, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024* (Abingdon Press, 2023)\*Benediction, Kirsten Linford, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* (Abingdon Press, 2020)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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## Announcements/Missions

- **Cemetery Meeting:** Will be Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10AM in the Wesley room.
- **Lenten Service:** March 27, 2024: Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, 8300 Richmond Road, Toano 757-566-0276 Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly  
Livestream Link: <https://www.facebook.com/Hickory.Neck>  
Speaker Rev. Max Blalock, pastor for the Wesley Foundation at W&M,
- **Good Friday Service:** Will be held Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Mt. Vernon.
- **Office Closure:** The office will be closed Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of Easter Monday.
- **Finance meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, April 3rd at 2pm.
- **Administrative Council meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, April 3rd at 2:30pm.
- **S/PPRC Meeting:** Will be Wednesday, April 10th at 10AM in the Wesley room.
- **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.