

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.

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

“Behind Every Great Church
There is Prayer”

10:15am

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

Do not fear your doubts.

Mother Teresa, John of the Cross, and other spiritual
giants were tormented by doubt during their lives.

Doubt is a pathway to a deeper, richer faith —
a faith where we can say with Thomas,
“My Lord and my God!”

*Introit

“Christ Is Risen”

UMH #307

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Even in the midst of our questions,

we will praise the Lord.

Even with fears of what might be,

**we will praise God for God’s mighty deeds,
according to God’s surpassing greatness.**

We come with faith that is growing in spite of this.

Praise God with song and dance.

Let us offer worship and praise to the living God,
the Risen Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Let everything that breathes praise God.

Praise God!

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Life-giving, Life-affirming God, we come this morning,
remembering the joy of Easter
while facing the realities of this world.

Fill us with the hope of new life that resurrection brings.

**Help us open our hearts to the never-ending,
unconditional love of this Easter season.**

**Be with us now in our time of worship,
and remain with us each and every day
as we walk our paths of life in faith. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise “Easter People, Raise Your Voices”

UMH #304

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Jeanne Fulks

**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 20:19-31 (NRSVue)

Jeanne Fulks

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the

disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Jeanne Fulks

Pastoral Prayer

Jeanne Fulks

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 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

UMH #420

The Message "Another Look at Thomas"

Suzanne Latimer

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

UMH #431

Offering

Offertory Prayer (responsive)

Suzanne Latimer

Holy One, we give you thanks and praise
for your promise of new life.

We thank you for these gifts.

**As we offer them into your hands,
may they bring hope and new life
to those in need.**

In the name of the resurrected Christ, we pray.

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.

*Prayer of Yearning (responsive)

Suzanne Latimer

God who abides in our doubts,
we yearn for the courage to believe
where we have not seen;
we long for the ability to perceive
things hidden from our eyes;
we desire to embrace the riches of our faith
when death looms all around us.

**Like Thomas before us,
we often struggle to believe
the mystery of your resurrection.**

So many doubts remain.

**So much uncertainty closes our minds
to the wisdom that stirs our souls.**

Yet you work in and through our doubts,
leading us ever deeper into the mystery of Christ,
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**May we see Christ's glory amidst our doubts
and proclaim with Thomas,
"My Lord and my God!" Amen.**

Words of Assurance (responsive)

Suzanne Latimer

God has the power to heal us.

Christ has the love to save us.

The Spirit has the strength to free us.

**These gifts are graciously given,
even in the midst of our doubts.**

God is here to lead us deeper,
and show us the way home.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

UMH #462

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Benediction

Suzanne Latimer

As the body of Christ,
may the unconditional love of God,
the deep peace of Christ,
and the power of the Holy Spirit
be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Postlude

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

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex

Stewardship for week of March 31: \$1,150.00

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

*Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Joanne Carlson Brown, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019* (Abingdon Press, 2018)

*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, Benediction, Karin Ellis, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* (Abingdon Press, 2022)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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Announcements/Missions

- **Susanna Wesley Circle:** Will meet Monday, April 8th at 6:30pm in the home of Cathy M.
- **S/PPRC meeting:** Will be held Wednesday, April 10th at 10am in the Wesley room.
- **GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS WITH DELEGATES ESTHER AGBOSU & SHAWN KIGER:** April 14th at 2:00 p.m., St. Luke's UMC Sanctuary, 300 Ella Taylor Rd. Yorktown, VA 23692.
- **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.