

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.



Photo Credit: Rob Stohlman

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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 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

The lost are found.

The dead return to life.

This is the Lord's doing;

it is wondrous in our sight.

*Introit “There's Something About That Name”

UMH #171

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Like a loving Father,

God offers us freedom

to choose our own path.

In God's freedom, we are a new creation.

Like a merciful Mother,

God offers us compassion

when we lose our way.

In God's mercy, we are a new creation.

Like a forgiving Parent,

God welcomes us home with open arms.

In God's embrace, we are a new creation.

Come! Let us worship the one

who makes all things new.

*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Merciful God, you seek the lost sheep of your pasture;
you call out to all who have strayed.

As the father welcomed the prodigal son home,
receive us back into your loving arms.

Your steadfast love, O God, knows no bounds.

Your loving embrace is always there for us.

Be with us in our time of worship,

that we may feel your presence,

and know that you are our true home. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” UMH #140

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 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (NRSVue)

Rev. Candee Martin

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable:

¹¹Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons.

¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with

prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' ”

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 “Faith of our Fathers”

UMH #710

The Message

“A Father's Love”

Rev. Candee Martin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

UMH #480

Special Music

The Choir

Offering

Offertory Prayer (responsive)

Rev. Candee Martin

God of overflowing abundance,
you bless the earth and it brings forth food.

**We, who have been given so much,
rejoice in our ability to aid those who are in need.**

As we present our offerings this day,
bless these gifts, the bounty of this good land,
that they may reach
those who need it most.

**May we, who call ourselves Christ's disciples,
continue to give freely of our worldly riches,
just as Christ gave freely
of his heavenly riches. 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)

In your love, O God, we are never lost.

In your care, O Christ, we are ever found.

**Help us feel this truth in our very bones,
for we are often far from home,
unsure of how to return.**

Teach our shut-up hearts to embrace your hope.

Teach our shriveled souls to cry out to you.

**For we long to taste the glory
of your heavenly banquet,**

**and we yearn to be held in your arms
as beloved children. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance

Hold fast to these words of assurance:

“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation;
everything old has passed away!”

In Christ, we are reconciled indeed,
for we have found our true home.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
UMH #133

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Benediction

Rev. Candee Martin

In Christ, we are a new creation.

In Christ, we are made new.

In Christ, the lost are found.

In Christ, we find our true home.

In Christ, those who were dead find new life.

**In Christ, those who drank bitter dregs
are invited to God’s heavenly banquet.**

In Christ, we reside with the saints. **Amen.**

Postlude

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

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex

Stewardship for week of June 9: \$2,155.00

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, Benediction, B.J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* (Abingdon Press, 2021)

*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)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.

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Announcements/Missions

- **Fellowship Time:** Will be Sunday the June 23rd after the Sunday service instead of today, June 16th this month.
- **Trustee meeting:** Will be Friday, June 28th at 10AM.
- **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.