

# *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.***



December 15, 2024

*Reverend Dennis Morgan*

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 of Advent

December 15, 2024 “Behind Every Great Church 10:15am  
There is Prayer”

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Worship Leader

Theresa Kaufman

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

### THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Organist, Carol Kendall

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words (Leader):

The joy of this season is found  
in simple moments of warmth and caring.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

\*Introit

“Light the Advent Candle”

TFWS #2090 (v.3)

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle – Joy (responsive)

When God’s people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a). We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

**We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.**

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

*[Light the third candle of the Advent wreath.]*

\*Call to Worship: 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalms (responsive)

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**People: He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.**

Leader: He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness, For His name's sake.

**People: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

**People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.**

nkjv

\*Opening Prayer (responsive)

Promised One, enter our hearts anew.

Enter our worship

with your promised presence,

that we may know you better.

**Enter our lives and our world,  
that we may proclaim your presence  
and sing your praises.**

**With joyous gratitude,  
we pray in your blessed name. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH#203

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

\*Prayer for Illumination (unison) Rev. Charles Moore

**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 Mathew 8:23-27 Rev. Charles Moore

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.  
24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.  
25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"  
26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.  
27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" nkjv

Prayers of the People and the Church Theresa Kaufman

\*Hymn of Meditation "Star-Child" TFWS #2095

**The Message:** "Faith and Fear" Rev. Charles Moore

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Offertory Prayer: Rev. Charles Moore  
God of promises and joy,  
receive these gifts we return to you now.  
Bless this offering,  
that our gifts may be signs of joy  
and hope for others in need. Amen.

\*Doxology (unison) UMH #95  
**Praise God for 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 for Advent (unison) Rev. Charles  
Moore

**I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties  
and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ  
and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.**

**I believe there are gifts more important than the ones  
under the Christmas tree, such as the things we teach  
our children, the way we share ourselves with friends,  
and the industry with which we set about reshaping the  
world in our time.**

**I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the  
poorest voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder  
of the season.**

**I believe in the angels' message that we should not be  
afraid that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome  
all anxieties and insecurities.**

**I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of  
appropriating Christmas that if I wait in silence I will  
experience the presence of the One born in the stable,  
for he lives today as surely as he lived then.**

**I believe in going away from Christmas as the wise men  
went "another way." I want to be different when these  
days are past more centered, more thoughtful, more  
caring.**

**And I believe God will help me. Amen.**

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.**

Words of Assurance

Rev. Charles Moore

God will feed you with goodness and grace.

God will give you joy and undying love, so that you may live in this world without fear and anxiety, keeping your faith in Him.

### **SENDING FORTH**

\*Hymn of Celebration "What Child Is This" UMH #219

Extinguishing the Candles

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

\*Benediction

Rev. Charles Moore

Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

nrsv

Postlude

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

**Stewardship for week of December 8th: \$764.00**

*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*

**Pastor Contact Information:**

**Rev. Dennis Morgan**

**603-490-5992**

**dennismorgan@vaumc.org**

**Pastor office hours:**

Monday 3pm-6pm

Thursday 10am-1pm

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## Announcements/Missions

- **Fellowship Time:** Fellowship Time will be held every third Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall after worship 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.
- **Honor/Memory:** If you would like to make a donation in honor/memory of someone, please fill out the request forms available for print in the News Blast. The cost is \$8.00 and forms must be returned no later than December 15th. Make checks payable to Mt. Vernon UMC. (Checks may be dropped off at the church office or dropped in the offering plate.) The Sanctuary will be decorated with Poinsettias.
- **Mt. Vernon Church Christmas Cards:** For the first time, Mt. Vernon UMC is selling Christmas cards featuring images of our church taken by its own members. There are two designs: 1) One of the church at night taken on Christmas Eve; and 2) one of the church on a snowy day enhanced by a cardinal and the word PEACE. Each pack has 8 cards with verses & envelopes and sells for \$10. To see pictures of the cards and the verses within, please go to the church website at <https://mtvernonoano.org>. Then scroll down to the pictures and click to enlarge. We are also selling packs of note cards that feature a sketch of the church on the cover. The note cards are blank inside and also sell for \$10 a pack. Envelopes are included. If you would like to purchase cards, they will be available to pick up in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings after the worship service. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the church's general fund. Please



support our church by purchasing a pack of cards and sharing these greetings during the holidays!

### **June Lois Kasperek 1926-2024**

Dale and his family would like the congregation to know that June held in her heart the Mt. Vernon church in Toano and each and every member of the congregation. Dale and his family want to thank everyone for the friendship and support given to June from 2002 to 2024. Dale and his family also want to express their appreciation for the cards and the contributions made to Mt. Vernon UMC in her memory. Dale knows that his mother wants the congregation to carry on. Dale believes that June will be with you, spiritually every Sunday. Thank you.