



*For this God is
our God for
ever and ever;
He will be our
guide even to
the end.*

- Psalm 48:14

Mt Vernon UMC

July 4, 2021

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP²

Take off your shoes!

We are standing on holy ground.

Shake off the dust!

We are ready to start afresh.

Let us worship God and receive Christ's teachings,
that we may be renewed and strengthened
to share God's love with the world.

HYMN 🎵 - #569

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

PSALM³ - Psalm 48

God lives on a high mountain at the center of the world in
a city fit for a king.

All the kings of the earth come to see God but they're
scared when they catch a glimpse.

They shake with fear and scream like they're in pain.

They fall apart like a ship in a storm.

God will always guide us in the right direction.

We have waited quietly to feel God's loving-kindness.

The whole world knows about you, and your justice and
goodness.

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

² Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009*, © 2008 Abingdon Press. Posted on <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>.

³ *God's Word, My Voice, A Lectionary for Children*, Lynn Zill Briggs

The mountains and the cities rejoice when they hear you speak.

God will always guide us in the right direction.

Explore the place where God lives.

Walk around and get to know God.

Figure out how many towers are on the temple.

And then tell everyone that God is our God and will be forever.

God will always guide us in the right direction.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

DOXOLOGY 🎵 - #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.**

NT READING - 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

GOSPEL - Mark 6:1-13

SERMON

HYMN 🎵 - #593

Here I Am, Lord

CONFESSION & PARDON⁴

Threats to life pierce us and cause us to doubt God's love.
But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Let us confess our sins and receive new life.

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**Holy Three, Holy One, triune God, we confess that we
do not believe that you have overcome sin and death.
We are more in touch with the pangs of our weakness
than we are with the power of your love.**

**In fear, we worship idols;
in despair, we collapse in hopelessness;
in rage, we seek to dominate others.**

O God of David, forgive us.

O Son of David, have mercy on us.

O Spirit of the Living God, grant us peace.

Send us out with the good news:

**nothing can withstand the victory of the cross and
resurrection of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.**

Amen.

Hear and believe this good news: Jesus, the Christ, son of
Mary, Son of the Most High God, was broken and
poured out for our salvation.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

PEACE & OFFERING

HOLY COMMUNION - UMH17

HYMN 🎵 - #584

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

POSTLUDE

SENDING FORTH⁵

Leader: Lord, what you have asked is not easy to do.

People: **With your Spirit, we'll do it anyway!**

⁵ Valerie Boyer, *Africana Liturgical Resources*, Pentecost Package 1, edited by Safiyah Fosua.

Leader: The task is so big and requires the best and the worst of us.

People: **With your Spirit, we'll do it anyway!**

Leader: It is not easy to bury the ego, but we must for the sake of your mission.

People: **With your Spirit, we'll bury it anyway!**

Leader: When we protest the things that aren't of you, we'll be persecuted.

People: **With your Spirit, we'll protest anyway!**

Leader: Reconciliation is more than what we've bargained for, and training costs more than what we expected to pay.

People: **With your Spirit, we'll reconcile anyway!**

Leader: Loving requires a level of vulnerability that is scary as scary can be

People: **With your Spirit, we'll love anyway!**

All: **With the boldness of the Holy Spirit, we'll do your work anyway!**

Leader: Go in Peace.

Question for Reflection⁶

Jesus charges his disciples to be vulnerable as he sends them out. The apostle Paul says that he embraces his vulnerability, "for

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whenever I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10c). In what ways might God be calling you to be vulnerable today?

Household Prayer: Morning

Fire of life, thank you for bringing me safely through the night.
As this new day dawns, let me receive it as a gift and a blessing.
Open my mind and senses to be fully awake to you. Attune my body to the rhythms of the day so that I can love and serve others as you guide me.

If I experience hardship or pain or if I am exposed to danger, send your Holy Spirit to help me to put my trust more fully in you.

Remind me that in life and in death I belong to you.

Let me walk gently on the earth,
thankful for your providence and grace.

Let me dance joyfully with you,
mindful that I share movement with planets and stars.

When the day is done and it is time to rest,
grant that I can offer the day to you with thanksgiving.

I offer my prayer in the name of the Beloved Son,
Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, I lift my evening prayer as shadows cover me and night sounds come from hidden places. But darkness is not dark to you, so I ask that you hear my prayers and see me through the night. I have only the activities of the day to offer as my living sacrifice of praise. Forgive my unholiness; reconcile me by your grace.
For the sake of the risen Christ, this night grant me peace. Amen.

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (217 898 8161, rob@methodist.cc).

