



Mt Vernon UMC

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING 

706. Soon and Very Soon²

**Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, We are going to see the King.**

CALL TO WORSHIP³

We gather again at the end of the year to wait for the
Christ child anew.

**We wait in the shocking hope
of the coming of the Messiah.**

We wait, and we remember the astounding things God has
done to save God's people.

**We wait in the shocking hope
of the coming of the Messiah.**

We wait, and we pay attention for signs of God's justice
and mercy turning the world upside down.

**We wait in the shocking hope
of the coming of the Messiah.**

We wait, and in our waiting, we learn to live as people of
God's promise.

**Let us worship in the shocking hope of Jesus Christ,
the coming Messiah. Amen.**

¹ Cover art by KaLisa Veer, <https://unsplash.com/@kalisaveer>

² Andraé Crouch. ©1971 Bud John Songs, Inc.; Crouch Music Corp. CCLI 11249

³ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

↑⁴HYMN 

246. Joy to the World

↑SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:24-37

↑HYMN 

2192. Freedom Is Coming

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - #895

**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.**

RESPONSE 

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**Incline Thine ear to us,
and grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

SERMON

CONFESSION & PARDON⁵ - #12

We confess that we are not ready.

⁴ ☐ Please stand as you are able.

⁵ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

**We call on you to rend the heavens and come down,
and yet we aren't ready for you to rend our hearts
and enter in.**

When it comes to meeting you face-to-face, we hesitate.

We fear what you will find in us and among us.

**We are uncertain that we really want our lives to be
turned upside down by the good news.**

**We want the hope that comes with knowing you are
coming to us, but we're not sure we're ready for the
shock of that hope.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our fear that we
might joyfully live in the hope that shakes us up and
turns us around to follow you.**

Silent confession.

Hear the good news:

God is the Potter, and we are the clay.

We are the work of God's hand.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen.

OFFERING & PEACE

↑DOXOLOGY - #95 

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

GREAT THANKSGIVING - #17 

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks
for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH⁶

**Beloved of God, keep awake! Stay alert!
Pay attention to God at work all around you.
And now, go from this place
blessed to be bowled over by hope
and shocked out of our complacency
to watch and wait and join in the work
of bringing God's dream for all creation to life. Amen.**

POSTLUDE 🎵🎵

**Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming.
Jesus is coming, O yes, I know.
Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming.
Jesus is coming, O yes, I know. (x2)**

Go in peace.

⁶ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

Upcoming Ministry Opportunities

Noisy Offering (Canteen Run)	Today!
Helping Hands gift cards	Due Today!
Helping Hands Donation	Today!
UWF Wreath Orders	Today!
Children's Paegent	12/23?
Christmas Eve Worship	5pm, 12/24

Recent and Upcoming Birthdays

Will Weckhorst, Sylvia Dickinson,
Amie Pankau, Meredith Barnes

For more information about these and other activities, check your email for *This Week at Mt. Vernon*. If you don't receive *This Week at Mt. Vernon*, please let us know.

Week 49 Reading Plan:

Mon	2 Corinthians 1-4	Fri	Romans 4-7
Tue	Corinthians 5-9		
Wed	Corinthians 10-13	Sat	Romans 8-10
Thu	Acts 20:1-3 Romans 1-3	Sun	Romans 11-13

God calls Mt Vernon UMC to:

Love God & neighbor as Jesus taught

Learn together of God's love and grace

Serve others by using our God given gifts and talents

Be witnesses of our faith in God through Jesus Christ to all the world!.

To learn more, visit facebook.com/MtVChamp

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 (217-751-4400, pastor@mtvernon-umc.org).