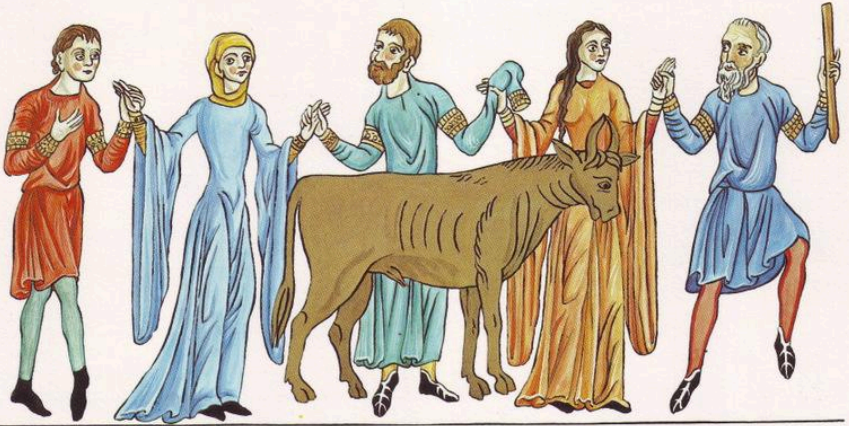


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Mt Vernon UMC

October 15, 2023

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING² 

Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.

Here I am to say that You're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,

Altogether wonderful to me. (2x)

CALL TO WORSHIP³

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship God who invites us.

When the Israelites worshiped the golden calf, God

listened to Moses and chose to correct instead of destroy.

God persistently invites us to return to God.

Jesus tells a story of a wedding banquet where the guests dismissed the invitation and harmed the messengers, so the king invited people off the streets and welcomed all who received the invitation in earnest.

God persistently invites us to return to God.

Too often we turn from God's ways, choosing our stiff-necked insistence that we know what is best instead of trusting God's provision, love, and guidance.

¹ Cover art: Herrad, of Landsberg. ca 1130-1195. The Dance of the Golden Calf from the *Hortus Deliciarum*.

² Tim Hughes. © 2000 Thankyou Music. CCLI 3266032 / 21891763

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

When we turn away and our love fails, God continues to offer us opportunities to return to God and join in the celebration of God's abundant love and life.

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship God who keeps inviting us for the long haul.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 32:1-14

☐ ⁴HYMN 

352. It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

☐ HYMN 

3104. Amazing Grace

PSALM

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - #895

RESPONSE 

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline Thine ear to us,

and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

☐ SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:1-14

SERMON

CONFESSION & PARDON⁵

God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way. God is present and seeks to bring healing and

⁴ ☐ Please stand as you are able.

⁵ Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, OCC, (based on Exodus 32: 1-14; Philippians 4: 1-9, Matthew 22: 1-14)

https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost_19_october_11/.

wholeness to all. Therefore, I invite you to confess all that would separate you from God or one another.
Let us pray.

When we have fashioned idols of our own desire or worshiped the temples of our own tradition,
Lord, have mercy.

Time for personal reflection and confession.

When have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice, or failed to extend the invitation to others,
Christ, have mercy.

Time for personal reflection and confession.

When we have adorned ourselves with worry rather than joy or failed to be gentle, knowing you are near,
Lord, have mercy.

Time for personal reflection and confession.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

Leader to People:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to Leader:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All:

Glory to God. Amen.

OFFERING 

2036. Give Thanks

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.**

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

**May you go knowing that God invites to partake in the
abundant life and love God has for you. So may we
receive, honor, and celebrate the grace that softens our
stubbornness and opens our hearts to share God's love
with one another. Amen.**

POSTLUDE 🎵🎵

**This little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (2x)
Go in peace.**

⁶ Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2023

NOTES

Not _____ time, but _____ time.

Not _____ can be a _____.

_____ should come between _____ and _____.

It's _____ to argue with _____.

It's not _____ to disobey _____.

One _____ can change the _____.

Upcoming Ministry Opportunities

Noisy Offering (Canteen Run)	Today!
Scout Popcorn	Today!
Calendar Planning	Today!
UWF will be meeting at a restaurant destination tbd.	10/18
Trunk or Treat	10/28
Charge Conference	10/29
Helping Hands Donation	11/5
All Saints Day	11/5

Recent and Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

Tony Sherman, Adalynn Barnes, Jeff Darling Lisa Heiken

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 42 Reading Plan:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Matthew 9-10	Matt. 14 Luke 9:1-17 Mark 6	John 6	Matt. 15 Mark 7	Matt. 16 Luke 9:18-27 Mark 8	Luke 9:28-62 Matt. 17 Mark 9	Matt. 18

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).