



Mt Vernon UMC

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

GREETINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING 

207. **Prepare the Way of the Lord.**

Prepare the way of the Lord,

and all people will see the salvation of our God. (2x)

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

In this season of Lent, we make our way to cross,

**We remember the steps that led Christ there: betrayal
and fear, but also trust in God, and love for
humanity.**

In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross,
we strive to follow Christ's example:

**To admit betrayal and fear that are part of life,
to trust in God and to love humanity.**

Let us worship God.

HYMN  154. All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

HEBREW READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

PSALM

848. Psalm 130

HYMN 

474. Precious Lord, Take My Hand

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - #895

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

¹ Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, *Hold Fast to What Is Good*. Used with permission. Adapted.

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.

GOSPEL LESSON John 11, selected verses

SERMON

CONFESSION & PARDON² - #12

You call us to be your voices in this world
and we stay silent.

You call us to be your hands in this world
and we keep them hidden.

You call us to be your feet in this world
and we go our own way.

When we meet those who are doubting
and say nothing, forgive us.

When we meet those who need your touch
and do nothing, forgive us.

When we are called to take up your cross
and carry nothing, forgive us.

² written by John Birch, and posted on *Faith and Worship*.
<http://www.faithandworship.com/>

**Breathe life into these bones
bring freedom to these lives
that we might declare
with heart and soul and voice
that you are our Lord and our 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.**

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 FORTH³

**Come out! Jesus commands,
And calls us from the tombs of our existence into the
brightness of a new day.
Come out! Jesus cries,
And unbinds us from the chains of our past.
Come out! Jesus calls,
And entices us into a world filled with grace and
possibility.**

³ from *Come Out! On the Breath of God, Service Prayers for the fifth Sunday of Lent*, written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dillely. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>

So: Go out!

Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!

Go out!

**Into a world that needs the Spirit of God, carried on
our lips and in our loving arms.**




Go out!

Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!

Go out: and go on the breath of God's holy wind!

POSTLUDE 🎵🎵

Upcoming Ministry Opportunities

Noisy Offering (Cunningham Children's Home) Today!
Helping Hands Donation (   \$) 3/5
Sign up as liturgist, acolyte, etc. Every Sunday!

Recent and Upcoming Birthdays

Caleb Oye, Bill Kurth

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 9 Reading Plan:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Numbers 7	Num 8-10	Num 11-13	Num 14-15 Ps 90	Num 16-17	Num 18-20	Num 21-22

Next Sunday: *The Other Days: Monday*

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).