



# Mt Vernon UMC

May 26, 2024

Memorial Day

# ENTRANCE

↑<sup>1</sup>CANDLE LIGHTING 

*I'll Fly Away*

GREETINGS<sup>2</sup>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who, by choice or by chance, laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

↑HYMN(s)

*Amazing Grace*  
*Count Your Blessings*

## CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>3</sup>

In a world filled with violence and war,  
**we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.**

In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,  
**we gather together to celebrate**  
**the promise of justice for all.**

In a world filled with hunger and greed,  
**we gather together to celebrate**  
**the promise of plenty for all.**

Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,  
**the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer**  
**of heaven and earth.**

---

<sup>1</sup> ↑ = Please stand in body or spirit.

<sup>2</sup> Cover art by John Stuart, [www.stushieart.com](http://www.stushieart.com).

<sup>3</sup> from *On Earth as in Heaven: Praying for Peace*, MCC Peace Sunday Packet  
2008

↑HYMN

READING

*Down By the Riverside*

In Flanders Field

John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

CONFESSION OF FAITH<sup>4</sup>

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:  
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject  
the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to  
resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms  
they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your  
whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as

---

<sup>4</sup> Baptismal Covenant I, *United Methodist Hymnal*, p34 (excerpt)

your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

## NOISY OFFERING

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## MEMORIAL DAY RECOGNITION<sup>5</sup>

This Memorial Day, we honor the brave women and men who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation's freedom. We recommit to keeping our sacred obligation to their survivors, families, and caregivers. Together, we vow to honor their memories by carrying on their work to forge a more perfect Union.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS<sup>6</sup>

Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

**We give you thanks, O God.**

---

<sup>5</sup> Preface to *A Proclamation on Prayer for Peace, Memorial Day, 2024*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/05/24/a-proclamation-on-prayer-for-peace-memorial-day-2024>

<sup>6</sup> A Litany from *The Book of Worship for United States Forces* (1974)

For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

**We give you thanks, O God.**

O almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence.

**RESPONSE** 

**Hear our prayer, O LORD,  
hear our prayer, O LORD;  
incline thine ear to us,  
and grant us thy peace.**

**HYMN**      696. O Beautiful For Spacious Skies

**SCRIPTURE**      John 15:9-13

9 “As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you.

Remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

11 “I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

12 “This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.

**MESSAGE**

*Katie Stout*

**OFFERING**

**DOXOLOGY**

# SENDING FORTH

## CANDLES 717. Battle Hymn of the Republic BLESSING

“As he died to make men holy,  
Let us die to make men free.”

May God bless you as you oppose evil and oppression.  
May Jesus inspire you to give of yourself, regardless of  
cost.

May the Holy Spirit empower you to take up the torch of  
those who have gone before.

## POSTLUDE



### *Every Day With Jesus*

This year we follow a Bible reading plan called  
“Every Day With Jesus”. With four short readings  
each day, by the end of the year, we will have read the entire  
Bible.

2024-05-26	1 Samuel 13:23–14:52	Psalm 64:1–6	Proverbs 14:5–7	John 5:1–23
2024-05-27	1 Samuel 15:1–16:23	Psalm 64:7–10	Proverbs 14:8–9	John 5:24–47
2024-05-28	1 Samuel 17:1–58	Psalm 65:1–8	Proverbs 14:10–12	John 6:1–21
2024-05-29	1 Samuel 18:1–19:24	Psalm 65:9–13	Proverbs 14:13–14	John 6:22–40
2024-05-30	1 Samuel 20:1–21:15	Psalm 66:1–7	Proverbs 14:15–16	John 6:41–59
2024-05-31	1 Samuel 22:1–23:29	Psalm 66:8–15	Proverbs 14:17–19	John 6:60–7:9
2024-06-01	1 Samuel 24:1–25:44	Psalm 66:16–20	Proverbs 14:20–22	John 7:10–29

## Scripture Notes, John 15:9-13

1. What was Jesus saying to the disciples?
2. What was John communicating to early readers?
3. How does this episode fit into John 13-17? How does it fit into the Grand Narrative?
4. What is the Holy Spirit communicating to you today? What change is the Holy Spirit seeking in you? How can you apply this?:

## Upcoming Ministry & Discipleship Opportunities

Noisy Offering (IGRC Camping)

Today!

Helping Hands Donation

6/2

Sesquicentennial Celebration Meeting

9:45am, 5/19

### From [igrc.org/camping](http://igrc.org/camping) :

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference camping program is an extension of the local church's disciple-making process. Its mission is to connect people, nature, and Christ for the transformation of the world.

### Recent and Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Kristen Lalley

**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.

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](https://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](mailto:pastor@mtvernon-umc.org)).