

# Mt Vernon UMC

August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GREETINGS<sup>1</sup>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING<sup>2</sup> 

**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 WORSHIP<sup>3</sup>

Family of God, as we gather today, Jesus asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

**You are our Messiah, the Son of the living God!**

Family of God, as we gather today, the Holy Spirit asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

**You are our Comforter, Advocate, and Sustainer!**

Family of God, as we gather today, God the Father asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

**You are our Creator, Provider, and Healer!**

Family of God, as we gather today, the Triune God asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

**You are Love that creates, saves, and enfolds us into the family of God! May we be instruments of Love in all that we are and all that we do. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:1-10

HYMN 

3104. Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

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<sup>1</sup> Cover art by John Stuart, [www.stushieart.com](http://www.stushieart.com).

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

<sup>3</sup> Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023.

## HYMN

846 Psalm 124 / 512. Stand By Me

## 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 16:13-20

## SERMON

## CONFESSION & PARDON<sup>4</sup>

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our  
hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous  
words, we are too often like Peter.

But like him, we can confess Christ as our Lord, speaking  
of our need for your saving presence in our lives.

**We look for you in all the wrong places,**

**God of the lost,**

**and wonder why we cannot find you.**

**We wander the corridors of power,**

**while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless.**

**We sit at the head tables of the world,**

**while you are handing out soup to the hungry  
at the kitchen's backdoor.**

**We applaud those who win the race,**

**while you are cheering on those in last place.**

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<sup>4</sup> Thom Shuman. *Lectionary Liturgies*. <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>.

**In forgiving us, God of new life,  
you would transform our cold hearts  
into those melted in service to others.**

**In granting us mercy,  
you challenge us to think  
of all those we have ignored.**

**In gifting us with grace,  
you enable us to proclaim  
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,  
as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.**

*Silence is kept.*

It's not money, but our generosity with it;  
it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves;  
it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift,  
which transforms us into God's children.

**It is more than just how we think.**

**In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits  
are transfigured and made new.**

**Thanks be 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.**

## **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 FORTH<sup>5</sup>**

Jesus stands and asks:

“Who do you say I am?”

We join millions who have gone before  
and say: “the Messiah”

Jesus stands in front of us

and tells us the realities of discipleship

We join millions who have gone before  
in the challenges of living as disciples.

Jesus stands before us

and offers food and drink for the journey.

Fed and nourished,

we go out into the world to live and serve.

Jesus stands before us, shining in glory,

and will be with us to the end of the age.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

**I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime! (2x)**

**I'm gonna work ...**

**I'm gonna pray ...**




**I'm gonna sing ...**

Go in peace.

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<sup>5</sup> Rev. Gord. *Worship Offerings*. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

# Upcoming Ministry Opportunities

Noisy Offering (Mom's Pantry)	Today!
Helping Hands Donation (    \$ )	9/3
SPRC Meeting	9/6
Meet the District Leadership	9/9
Church Council Meeting	9/13
Charge Conference	10/29

# Recent and Upcoming Birthdays

Erich Slocum, Dottie Dickinson, Tom & 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.

# Week 35 Reading Plan:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Ezekiel 5-8	Ezek. 9-12	Ezek. 13-15	Ezek. 16-17	Ezek. 18-19	Ezek. 20-21	Ezek. 22-23

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)).