

# Mt Vernon UMC

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

# PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING<sup>1</sup> >>> GREETINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>2</sup>

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

# We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

Beloved, listen. God is calling you. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

1³HYMN ♪

240. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1PSALM

847. Psalm 126

**1SCRIPTURE** 

John 1:6-8, 19-28

1HYMN ⁴♣↓↓

John Came Preaching, Bearing Witness

**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.

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$  1 = Please stand as you are able.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by permission. *God's World is Changing: New Hymns for Advent and Christmas* (2022).

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

89. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

SERMON

**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.

# POSTLUDE 🎶

#706<sup>5</sup>

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.

# SENDING FORTH<sup>6</sup>

May the God of peace and joy sanctify you entirely; and may God keep your spirit and soul and body sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; and go in peace.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Andraé Crouch. ©1971 Bud John Songs, Inc.; Crouch Music Corp. CCLI 11249

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (paraphrase)

#### **Upcoming Ministry Opportunities**

Noisy Offering (Canteen Run)	Today!
Christmas Caroling	Today!
Helping Hands Donation	1/7
Children's Program	3pm, 12/23
Christmas Eve Worship	5pm, 12/24

# Recent and Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

Meredith Barnes, Travis Sherman, Mason Drollinger, Tracy Bailen, Tom & Cheryl Blackburn

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 51 Reading Plan:

Mon	1 Timothy 1-6	Fri	Hebrews 1-6
Tue	2 Timothy 1-4	Cat	Hobrowo 7 10
Wed	Titus 1-3	Sat	Hebrews 7-10
Thu	1 Peter 1-5	Sun	Hebrews 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).