



Mt Vernon UMC

April 16, 2023

Holy Humor Sunday

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING 

Here I Am To Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP²

Protect us, O God, for in you we take refuge;

Let us say to God, “You are our Lord; we have no good apart from you.”

Today, we come to worship God in truth and turn away from worshiping the idols all around us.

God delights in our sincere worship, but sorrow visits those who give their worship to idols.

We bless the Lord who gives counsel, who instructs our hearts in the secret of the night.

We keep the Lord always before us so that we shall not be moved from God’s ways.

Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest secure,

Because God keeps us from destruction in this life and the next.

God shows us the path of life,

And in God’s presence is the fullness of joy forevermore.

And so, we say to God,

**“You are our Lord; we have no good apart from you.”
Amen.**

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

² Adapted from Psalm 16 NRSVUE by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022.

HYMN

529. How Firm a Foundation

PSALM

748. Psalm 16

FIRST READING

Acts 2:22-32

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - #895

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

**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.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

HYMN

178. Hope of the World

SERMON

HYMN

2162. Grace Alone

CONFESSION & PARDON³

One: Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

Two: When we are so full of ourselves,
it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.

One: Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture
that obscures the signs pointing to you.

Two: Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart
when we don't recognize you in our neighbor,
or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.

One: Our eyes and ears have become so crammed
with the sights and sounds of living
that we simply fail to see you or to recognize your voice.

Risen Lord Jesus,

**help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders our
awareness of your presence with us.**

**Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing
presence,**

**so that, like the disciples who first encountered the
Resurrected Christ,**

**we too might hasten to share this great good news with
others.**

Amen.

³ Adapted from "Confession: Recognizing Jesus" by Moira Laidlaw, at Liturgies Online. Re-posted at
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/04/easter-3-prayer-of-confession.html>.

We know that we were ransomed from futile ways
...with the precious blood of Christ...
and have been born anew
through the living and enduring word of God.
In this we recognize God's great love for the world
revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus...who
came into the world not to condemn it but to save it.
Those who believe in him are not condemned.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory 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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH⁴ from 1 Peter 1:3-9

**We believe in God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by whose mercy we are given new birth
into a living hope through
Christ's resurrection from the dead.**

**We believe that through Christ
we are born into an inheritance
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading;
and into a present salvation that will be revealed
in its fullness in the last time.**

We believe that until that time,

⁴ Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022..

**the Spirit works in us
to grow the genuineness of our faith,
that we may give praise, glory, and honor
when Jesus, whom we love but have not seen,
is revealed. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH⁵

May you go forth carrying the joy that is yours as a child of God and an heir to resurrection life through Jesus Christ. May that joy fill you up and fuel your journey as we ask in the wake of the resurrection, “What now?”
Amen.

POSTLUDE & CANDLES 🎵

2186. Song of Hope

⁵ Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022.

Here I Am to Worship

Tim Hughes © 2001 Thankyou Music

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

*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*

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

*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*

Upcoming Ministry Opportunities

Noisy Offering (St Jude Children's Hospital)

Today!

Helping Hands Donation (   \$)

5/7

Sign up as liturgist, acolyte, etc.

Every Sunday!

Recent and Upcoming Birthdays

4/11 - Joyce Kerkstra **89th**

4/17 - Blake Drollinger

4/18 - Mark Jones

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 16 Reading Plan:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Sam 25-27	Psalms 17,35, 54,63	1 Sam 38-31 Psalm 18	Psalms 121 123-125 128-130	2 Sam 1-4	Psalms 6,8-10, 14,16, 19,21	1 Chron 1-2

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).