



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Online Order of Worship
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13th, 2020**

Greetings and Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Our faith calls us to question.

Our faith calls us to seek.

We come not because we are certain.

Rather we come seeking hope.

Inspire the questions to draw us closer.

So we may believe in what we can't see, and feel what we can't touch.

Let us worship God.

Hymn #473

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Prayer of Confession

God who is Gracious, Loving, and Merciful, we come to you but so often we believe the world is void of those qualities. Instead, we believe we have the power to overcome all afflictions, hardships, or pandemics, and if we can't, then we are weak, lazy, or simply unworthy. Tell us otherwise. Tell us we are beloved. Tell us we are worthy. We have sat isolated for so long but remind us that we are never isolated from you. Remind us that the demons that lead to dark thoughts, shouts of anger, and bouts of depression are not because we are less than. Let us reveal our brokenness to you. Let us live together in spaces of vulnerability and let us share with each other how the gifts you give us are enough.

Enough to build a beloved community, enough to fill our hearts with the assurance that we are beautifully and wonderfully made in your image. Let us turn to that image, and from that image of complete brokenness, let us find peace...

Assurance of Pardon

One: ...Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Response

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Philippians 4:10-13

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. 11 Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

*Living the Questions:
How is the Pandemic Changing Us?*

Hymn #339

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true Word,
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy dear son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance through all my days;
Thou, and Thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art!

Affirmation of Faith (*The Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer Over the Elements, Prayers of Intercessions, Concluding with the *Lord's Prayer*...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

"Shout to the Lord"

My Jesus my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord All the earth let us sing
Power and majesty Praise to the King
Mountains bow down And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy At the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You

Benediction

Announcements Transcript for September 13, 2020

Good Morning! Grace, mercy, and peace in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Welcome to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us this day. Please take a moment if you are joining us on our website to sign our virtual friendship pad. We have started this so we can know more about who is joining us for worship and how we can connect with you. Whether you are a church member or a first-time visitor, we want to hear from you and to welcome you in Christian love. We at Mount Vernon are grateful to bring the church home in this season and we want to continue to spread Christ's love far beyond the church walls.

Next Sunday, the Session of Mount Vernon Presbyterian will gather for their monthly meeting. As you know, the Session prioritizes the health and well-being of this congregation while also longing to return to some form of in-person worship as soon as safety protocols can be adequately implemented. We will continue to discern if the Session take steps toward a return to in-person gatherings. This week, if you have not already received it, you will receive a questionnaire from the church that we are asking you to fill out and return to us. It is intended to help us understand how connected you are to the church at this time as well as your comfort level for gathering in-person for worship or other ministry opportunities. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

In the meantime, we continue to offer several vibrant ministries. Tonight, our Youth is gathering with Isaac Toney-Schmitt for the first time, and we are excited about that. If your child would like to join on that Zoom call, please contact Isaac at his email address below. Also, we are excited that at the end of the month our Small Groups are returning for a 6 week series.. Elder David Hill would like to tell you more about that...

Thank you, David. If for some reason you do not have his contact information, please feel free to contact the church office directly.

Once again, we also want to encourage you to give generously during this season. Your support of the church and of our Covid-19 relief fund has been overwhelming. If you would like to continue to support us in these endeavors, please head over to the church's giving page.

Finally, we want to keep in prayer at this time Clarice Elder, Elizabeth Small, Julie Chesnutt, Inez Cole, Kirk Pumphrey, and Jill Thompson. We also remain in prayer for those who have prayer requests that go unnamed as well as those continuing to suffer beyond the church walls, whether it be loss of life, loss of job, or loss of identity. To all of this we extend our Christian concerns. We also want to celebrate with the family of Charlie and Lisa Gray upon hearing a good report for their newborn grandson Will. To God be the Glory.

And now, let us prepare our hearts to worship God...