



## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Order of Worship  
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Greetings and Welcome

### Prayer of Invocation

### Call to Worship

God who is close,

**God who is far,**

God who is in-between.

**You know no boundaries or fault-lines.**

You only know spiritual presence.

**Breathe that gift upon us, and fill our lungs with life.**

So we may celebrate the least, the last.

**Let us celebrate the community that feels close, that feels far, and that feels in-between.**

**Let us celebrate God!**

### Hymn #460

**“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”**

**GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH**

Holy God, we praise Your Name;

Lord of all, we bow before You;

All on earth Your scepter claim,

All in heaven above adore You.

Infinite Your vast domain,

Everlasting is Your reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn

Angel choirs above are raising;

Cherubim and seraphim,

In unceasing chorus praising,

Fill the heavens with sweet accord:

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Holy Father, Holy Son,

Holy Spirit, Three we name You,

While in essence only One;

Undivided God we claim You,

And adoring bend the knee

While we own the mystery.

### Affirmation of Faith (From the *Second Helvetic Confession* on the subject of visiting the sick)

Since humans are never exposed to more

grievous temptations than when they are harassed by infirmities, are sick

and are weakened by diseases of both soul and body, surely it is never

more fitting for pastors of churches to watch more carefully for the welfare of their flocks than in such diseases and infirmities. Therefore let

them visit the sick soon, and let them be called in good time by the sick,

if the circumstance itself would have required it. Let them comfort and confirm them in the true faith, and then arm them against the dangerous suggestions of Satan. They should also hold prayer for the sick in the home and, if need be, prayers should also be made for the sick in the public meeting; and they should see that they happily depart this life...

**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**

Luke 15:3-7

So he told them this parable: 4 “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

**One:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**Sermon**

*Living the Questions:  
How Do We Remain Close in Community?*

**Hymn #438**

**“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
And sin we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity.

## Prayers of the People

*After each petition, the Pastor will say, "...Lord, In Your Mercy,"  
Respond with "Hear Our Prayer."*

## 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.

### "Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted"

Come ye souls by sin afflicted  
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down  
By the broken law convicted  
Through the cross behold the crown  
Look to Jesus, look to Jesus, look to Jesus  
Mercy flows through Him alone

Take His easy yoke and wear it  
Love will make your obedience sweet  
Christ will give you strength to bear it  
While His grace shall guide your feet  
Safe to glory, safe to glory, safe to glory  
Where His ransomed captives meet

Blessed are the eyes that see Him  
Blest the ears that hear His voice  
Blessed are the souls that trust Him  
And in Him, alone rejoice  
His commandments, His commandments, His commandments  
Then become their happy choice

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary  
Light to newly opened eyes  
Like full springs in deserts dreary  
Is the rest the cross supplies  
All who taste it, all who taste it, all who taste it  
Shall to rest immortal rise

## Benediction

## **Announcements for September 20th**

Good Morning. Grace, mercy, and peace in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Welcome to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us this day. We hope you will take the time to sign our virtual friendship pad located below the video on our website. We look forward to connecting with you whether you are joining us for the first time or are a longtime church member.

### **Session Meeting**

Today, September 20th, the Session of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church will gather for its monthly meeting. There we will continue to discern a proper response to the current pandemic. As I have stated previously, please remain in prayer for your Session as they live into the tension of wanting to gather faithfully to worship and serve while prioritizing the safety and well being of those within and beyond our community. As always, we will keep you apprised of any new developments.

### **Youth Group**

Tonight, our youth will once again gather at 5:30pm via Zoom with our new Associate Pastor, Isaac Toney-Schmitt. If you or your child would like to join, please reach out to Isaac directly.

### **Small Groups**

Next week, small groups will return to MVPC. As David Hill shared last week, they will focus on topics relating to racial reconciliation. Please reach out to David or contact the church office to learn more about these offerings or to join a group.

### **Stay Connected!**

Please continue to check our website and social media pages for other ways in which you can connect with the church.

### **Stewardship**

We also want to thank you for your continued benevolence during this season. The stewardship you have shown to our church has transcended far beyond our walls and ministries. Please continue to give to our general fund or our Covid-19 fund. You can do this either via postal mail or by going online to our giving page.

### **Prayer Concerns**

Finally, let us continue to remain in prayer for so many in this world and country. We pray for all feeling the effects of this pandemic. We also lift up those suffering from recent natural disasters on our Gulf Coast and in other parts of the world. Closer to home, we lift up our friends: Clarice Elder, Julie Chesnutt, Inez Cole, Elizabeth Small, the Carden Family, and Kirk Pumphrey. We also pray for those who feel isolated and alone during this season, we especially think of those quarantined in nursing homes and other living facilities. To these concerns we ask for God's peace.

And now, in that spirit of peace, let us turn to God, and prepare our hearts for worship.