



## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Order of Worship

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Greetings and Welcome

### Prayer of Invocation

### Call to Worship (Based on Romans 13:8-14)

Amy Kiley

Distant or not, we owe no one anything.

**Except to love one another.**

The day is near, let us live honorably.

**Love does no wrong, love is fulfilling.**

So let us put on the armor of light, the hope that comes with Jesus Christ!

**And let us heed the command, "love thy neighbor as thyself."**

Let us worship God!

### Hymn #476

### "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above" LYONS

O worship the King, all glorious above!  
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
His chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,  
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;  
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

### Prayer of Confession

God of space, you exist in the vast and the narrows of life, claiming the chasms that separate and divide. We often turn away or turn inward, choosing to exacerbate division and renew wayward assumptions.

Invite us to turn toward. Invite us to turn outward. Invite us to breathe in the spiritual life that holds deeper truths. The truth that lies beyond the worldly, beyond the flesh, and leads us toward everlasting life. Grant us the courage to see your world differently, grant us the compassion to give more fervently, so

that the communities we create may know no bounds and exist to live with shared hope...Amen.

## 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

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## Sermon

*Living the Questions:*

*How Do We Remain in Community When We are Far Apart?*

**“We Cannot Measure How You Heal”**

The Virtual Choir

## 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.

**“Light the Fire”**

I stand to praise you  
But I fall to my knees  
My spirit is willing  
But my flesh is so weak

*Refrain*

So light the fire in my soul  
Fan the flame make me whole  
Lord you know where I've been  
So light the fire in my heart again

I feel your arms around me  
As the power of your healing begins  
Your spirit runs through me  
Like a mighty rushing wind (*to refrain*)

**Benediction**

## **Announcements for September 27th**

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. Please take a moment to fill out our virtual friendship pad located on our website just below the screen you are watching now. We look forward to connecting with you, whether you are a longtime member or a first-time visitor.

### **Outdoor Worship/Prayer in the Sanctuary**

We want to inform you that starting next Sunday at 11am, we will hold outdoor worship services on the lawn of the MVPC campus. These services will take place October 4th and 18th, and November 1st and 15th. There is a maximum of 75 attendees, and you must reserve your and your families spot. You do not need to bring your own chairs, we will provide that, but you will need to wear a mask at all times. Bulletins will be found on our website, so if you do not have a smartphone, please let us know in advance. We are excited to worship with you, but also cognizant that some of you are not ready to worship in-person. We understand, and each Sunday we worship in this manner we will livestream the service much like we did prior to the pandemic. You will be receiving a letter this week that elaborates on the protocols of this service as well as the opportunity for you as an individual or as a family to reserve a spot to pray right here in the sanctuary. After reading this letter if you have questions or wish to sign-up, please contact the church office.

### **Mission Opportunities**

During these outdoor services we will bring back our monthly mission initiatives. In October we will collect food for CAC and in November we will collect food for Stirred Up Ministries. The Outreach Committee will provide more details in our upcoming weekly emails.

### **Small Groups/Youth Group Sunday Night**

Tonight, our small groups begin their fall gatherings. If you have not joined a group, please contact David Hill and he will connect you to a group. The lessons this fall will focus on themes of racial reconciliation. Also, our Youth Group will meet tonight outside of Gailey Hall at 5pm. If your child plans to attend, please make sure they wear a mask. Contact Isaac if you have further questions.

### **Stewardship Update**

As we continue to take these small steps to return to our church campus, we want to thank you for your patience and the love you have shown for Jesus Christ through the grace you have shown neighbor and stranger. In that spirit, we hope you will continue to support the Covid-19 Fund. We have done amazing work thus far, but we need to continue in that work as so many continue to hurt in our midst. We also hope you will continue to give generously to the church. Your support has allowed us to flourish during this season. Please give through the church's giving page on our website or via postal mail. For those of you wondering, during the outdoor services, there will be an opportunity for you to give a tithe or offering as you exit the service.

### **Prayer Concerns**

Finally, let us be prayer for Clarice Elder, Carlton Carden, Elizabeth Small, Julie Chesnutt, Inez Cole, Kirk Pumphrey, and so many more. We also want to lift up those of you who are mentally and emotionally exhausted by the pandemic. If you are feeling such strain, please reach out to one of our Stephen Ministers. To

find out more about this ministry contact the church office, or the Leader of the Stephen Ministry, Pat Bartee.  
We have male and female caregivers ready to walk alongside you.

And now, let us prepare our hearts and minds to journey with Christ as we worship together.