



## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Order of Worship  
Second Sunday After the Epiphany  
January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### — GATHERING —

**Welcome & Announcements**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Call to Worship**

Sybil Washington

Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

We live sustained by God's presence and love.

**Thanks be to God.**

As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

**God weeps with us.**

As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,

**God give thanks with us.**

As we struggle for justice,

**God struggles with us.**

As we strive for peace,

**God strives with us.**

As we work to build the beloved community,

**God works with us.**

As we offer our gifts to all,

**God blesses us.**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

**Sustained by God's presence and love**

**we worship God.**

**Hymn**

**"Gather Us In"**

**GATHER US IN**

Here in this place new light is streaming

Now is the darkness vanished away

See in this space our fears and our dreamings

Brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken

Gather us in, the blind and the lame

Call to us now and we shall awaken

We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery

We are the old who yearn for your face

We have been sung throughout all of history

Called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty

Gather us in, the proud and the strong

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly

Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water  
Here we will take the bread of new birth  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion  
Give us to eat the bread that is you  
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining  
Not in some heaven light years away  
But here in this place the new light is shining  
Now is the kingdom, now is the day  
Gather us in and hold us forever  
Gather us in and make us your own  
Gather us in, all peoples together  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

### **Prayer of Hope**

Sybil Washington

May we dream of a world made new,  
Where together we shout for justice,  
And as one we fight against oppression.  
May we dream of a world made new,  
Where together we seek God's righteousness  
And as one we sing God's praise.  
May we dream of a world made new,  
Where together we climb God's mountain,  
And as one we enter the promised land.  
May we dream of a world made new,  
Where together we proclaim the good news of God's kingdom,  
And as one we enjoy its peace, and abundance and love. Amen.

### **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.

— **THE WORD** —

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

### **Scripture**

Luke 7:11-17

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. 12 As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. 13 When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to speak,

and Jesus gave him to his mother. 16 Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen among us!” and “God has looked favorably on his people!” 17 This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

**Sermon**

*Break the Law*

**Hymn**

**“I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes”**

DUNDEE

I to the hills will lift my eyes;  
From whence shall come my aid?  
My help is from the Lord alone,  
Who Heaven and earth has made.

He will not let your foot be moved,  
Your Guardian never sleeps;  
God's watchful and unslumbering care  
Protects and safely keeps.

Your faithful keeper is the Lord,  
Your shelter and your shade;  
'Neath sun or moon, by day or night,  
You shall not be afraid.

From evil He will keep you safe,  
Provide for all you need;  
Your going out, your coming in,  
God will forever lead.

— **RESPONSE** —

**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.

— **SENDING** —

**Song**

**“Step By Step”**

O God You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
O God You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days

**Benediction**

## **Announcements**

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 today. We have several announcements, reminders, and updates this day:

### **Covid-19 Update**

First off, we want to let you know that our Worship Committee, who has led our Covid-19 response, in consultation with Isaac and myself, have concluded that due to the winter weather and the viral surge we are seeing locally that we will halt our outdoor, in-person services through February. As of right now, we hope to return to in-person gatherings in March. As always, we will keep you notified of decisions we make, and we will continue to prioritize your safety above all.

### **Small/Youth Group**

We will continue holding small group and youth outdoor gatherings, and the youth will meet this evening outside Gailey Hall at 5pm.

### **Pastoral Care**

We also want to remind you that Isaac and I are both available at different points in the week for pastoral visits. We look forward to meeting with you, and always if you feel disconnected in anyway, please reach out so we can support you.

### **Weekly Activities**

As we enter this new year, we also want to continue to remind you that we hold a weekly phone devotional at 2pm each Tuesday and daily Mount Vernon moments on our Facebook page. We will also begin reaching out to you again for you and your family to assist with worship. We are thankful for the support you have given to these services since they began last March.

### **Future Worship Highlights**

Going forward, we have a lot going on. Next week, we will ordain and install our new elder class- since we planned to do this service in person, we will send out more details about this service this coming week. Also, we want to encourage you to send your Six Word story of faith. We will use these words as the basis of a sermon series throughout the Lenten season, which believe it or not, starts next month. Feel free to email them to me or Debbie Nysewander in the church office.

### **Stewardship/Mission/MVP Foundation Update**

I would also be remiss if I did not share how grateful we are for your benevolence this past year. Because of you I can report that the Finance and Administration Team were overwhelmed by your generosity in 2020 and because of you we had a tremendously healthy year. Concurrently, you have also given \$65,000 to our Covid-19 fund, of which more than \$60,000 has already been dispersed to mission partners both locally and globally. Finally, I want to offer a note of thanks for the Mount Vernon Foundation. Since its inception, the Foundation, of which many of you have been faithful patrons, has given more than \$400,000. This past fall, the Foundation once again came through when it helped us secure needed funds to fulfill plans for the new cross that hangs over the courtyard on our campus. If you would like to learn more about the Foundation, what it does, and how you can support it, please reach out.

### **Prayer Concerns**

Finally, let us be in prayer for so many: for those who have perished, for our country, for those providing care, for the uncertainty that we all see. May we gather this day in the firm and certain knowledge of God's love toward us. And now, let us prepare our hearts to worship God.