# Mount Vernon United Methodist Church MORNING WORSHIP

# April 28, 2024

PRELUDE

"Variations on 'Leoni'" (Matthew Prins)

**Aldersgate Ringers** 

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the vineyard of God.

We seek Christ, the vine of great love.

Drink from the waters of life.

We live in the light of God's grace.

Come to the vineyard of God.

All are welcome here.

# \*OPENING HYMN 397

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

1. I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

2. I need thee every hour; stay thou nearby; temptations lose their power when thou art nigh. (Refrain)

3. I need thee every hour, in joy or pain; come quickly and abide, or life is vain. (Refrain)

4. I need thee every hour; teach me thy will; and thy rich promises in me fulfill. (Refrain)

5. I need thee every hour, most Holy One;O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son. (Refrain)

# \*MORNING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

**ANTHEM** 

"Give Me Jesus" (arr. Tom Fettke)

Aldersgate Choir

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Beth Bauman

- 1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord. Both in in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give.

Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

- 3. 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, When sensing beauty or in love's embrace, Whether we suffer or sing rejoicing, We belong to God, we belong to God.
- 4. Across this wide world we shall always find Those who are crying with no peace of mind. But when we help them or when we feed them, We belong to God we belong to God. We belong to God.

Jae Cho

# SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleanse by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON "Formula for the Good Life"

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 889 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1:15; 3:16

There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for all, to whom we testify.

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance:

That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen.

## \* GLORIA 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

## \*DOXOLOGY 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Source of love and life, your glory knows no bounds. We yearn to set aside our fears, but we are often afraid. We long to love our sisters and brothers, but we often feel alienated from them. We desire to abide in you as you abide in us, but we can't seem to figure out how. Show us once more how to love, for only love can cast out our fear. Show us how to love one another well, for only then can we truly know you. Show us how to abide in your vine, for only then can we bear the fruit that glorifies your name. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. Christ's words will abide in us. Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name and it will be granted. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

#### \*CLOSING HYMN 438

"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"

- 1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; thee, only thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.
- 2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
  O let me cheerfully fulfill;
  in all my works thy presence find,
  and prove thy good and perfect will.
- 3. Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine inmost substance see, and labor on at thy command, and offer all my works to thee.
- 4. For thee delightfully employ what e'er thy bounteous grace hath given; and run my course with even joy, and closely walk with thee to heaven.

<sup>\*</sup>BENEDICTION