

Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church

Where All the People are Ministers of Christ

Our vision is to seek to live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to nurture persons of all ages and circumstances for faithful discipleship, and to transform faith into service to others.

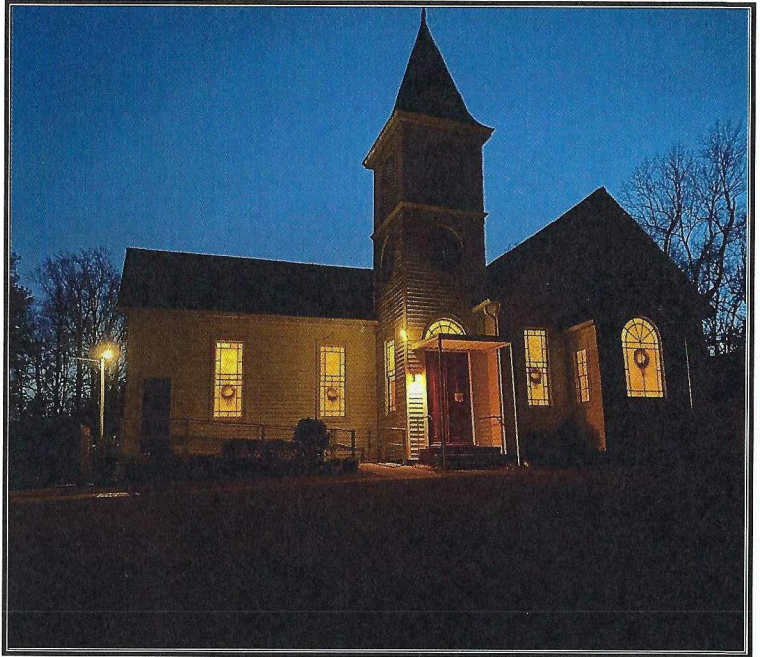


Photo Credit: Richard Abbott

December 24, 2025

Reverend Dennis Morgan

7801 Church Lane, Toano, Virginia 23168

Adult Sunday School begins at 9:15am.

Welcome to our worship service! Mt. Vernon has been worshipping our Lord and serving the Greater Williamsburg Community since 1887. If we can be of any assistance to you, please let us know.

**A Service of Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve Service**

December 24, 2025 "Behind Every Great Church 3:00pm
There is Prayer"

Worship Leader Theresa Kaufman

*Please stand as you are able. Please read in Unison in **Bold**.

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation Organist, Carol Kendall

Welcome and Announcements Theresa Kaufman

Introit "Advent Candle (Light the Candle)"
TFWS# 2090 (v.5)

Lighting of Christ Candle (responsive) Theresa Kaufman

To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared,
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them, light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6) Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and

night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! **Amen.**

[Light all five candles on the Advent wreath.]

Carol

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH #204

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dennis Morgan

Prayers for the Church

Rev. Dennis Morgan

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

First Lesson

Rev. Dennis Morgan

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, ^[a] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, ^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ ***'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'***

Carol

"The First Noel"

UMH #245

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH #230

Jesus is Presented in the Temple

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves or two pigeons.'

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on ⁹him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he ⁹would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ^[e] ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon^[f] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon^[g] took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹Master, now you are dismissing your servant^[h] in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'
³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what
was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon^[i] blessed them
and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the
falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that
will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be
revealed- and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Carol

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

UMH# 221

Fourth Lesson

Rev. Dennis Morgan

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of
the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of
Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with
wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.
⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the
festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years
old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the
festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus
stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.
⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a
day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their
relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they
returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days
they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who
heard him were amazed at his understanding and his
answers. ⁴⁸When his parents^[i] saw him they were
astonished; and his mother said to him, Child, why have you
treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been
searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹He said to them, 'Why
were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be
in my Father's house?'^[m] ⁵⁰But they did not understand what
he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came

to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, ^[1] and in divine and human favor.

Carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

UMH# 240

SENDING FORTH

Extinguishing the Candles

Benediction

Rev. Dennis Morgan

Postlude

*** Please stand as you are able.**

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex

Pastor Contact Information:

Rev. Dennis Morgan

dennismorgan@vaumc.org

Pastor's Office Hours: Pastor Dennis' office hours are Monday 3p-6p and Tuesday 10a-1p. In addition, Pastor Dennis can meet *by appointment* at other times throughout the week.

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The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025, Abingdon Press

The Spiritual Wisdom of the Gospel for Christian Preachers and Teachers, Liturgical Press

The Daily Study Bible commentary series, Westminster Press

The New Interpreter's Bible commentary series, Abingdon Press