

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.



“Who Do You Say I Am?”

August 23, 2026

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

7801 Church Lane, Toano, Virginia 23168

757-566-0162

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.

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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Augusts 23, 2026

10:15am

“Who Do You Say I Am?”

Worship Leader

Theresa Kaufman

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

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Lila O’Sullivan, Guest Pianist

Pastor’s Address

Welcome & Announcements

Centering and Reflection (Leader):

Let us set aside the voices that tell us who we must be and listen for the voice of Christ, who calls us by name. May we open our hearts to the question Jesus asks: “Who do you say that I am?”

*Introit

TFWS #2071

“Jesus, Name above All Names”

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Jesus asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus calls us to follow him—not only with our words but with our lives.

We will follow Christ in love, mercy, courage, and service.

Jesus gathers us into one body, with many gifts and many ways to serve.

We are many members, but we belong to one another in Christ.

Come, let us worship the One who is our hope, our foundation, and our Lord.

With grateful hearts, we worship Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

Gracious and loving God, help us hear your invitation to follow Jesus more faithfully. We confess we do not always know what it means to say that Christ is Lord. Sometimes we want Jesus to fit our expectations, our plans, or our preferences. Yet you call us beyond ourselves—to lives of love, mercy, courage, humility, and service. Give us wisdom to recognize Christ among us and courage to respond. May this time of worship strengthen us for the work you place before us. Through Jesus Christ, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Children's Message – A Blessing for Returning to School

***Hymn of Praise**

UMH #368

"My Hope is Built"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Worship Leader

Romans 12:1-8

Gospel Lesson

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

Matthew 16:13-20

Prayers of the People and the Church

***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.

Hymn of Meditation

UMH #361

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

“Who Do You Say I Am?”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Passing of the Peace (pastor):

We are reminded that following Jesus is not something we do alone. Christ calls us into a community where we care for one another, encourage one another, and share the peace of Christ with one another. So, as Christ has welcomed us, let us welcome one another. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Prayer (unison):

Gracious God, all that we have comes from you. Receive these gifts, and use them to strengthen your church, serve our neighbors, welcome those who seek a place of belonging, and bring hope wherever it is needed. May our giving be an expression of our trust in Christ and our commitment to live as his people. In his name we pray. Amen.

*Doxology:

UMH #95

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN

SENDING FORTH

*Sending Hymn

UMH #559

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

*Benediction (responsive):

Go now, remembering the question Jesus asks: “Who do you say that I am?”

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Go into your homes, your schools, your workplaces, and your community.

We will carry the love of Christ with us.

Use the gifts God has given you, and serve one another in love.

We are many members, but one body in Christ.

Build your lives upon Christ, the sure foundation.

We will follow where Christ leads.

And may the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit go with you this day and always.

Amen.

Announcements/Missions

- **Name Tags:** We welcome you to wear your nametag. If your nametag is missing or has a mistake please contact the office or fill out the nametag request form that is on a clipboard by the nametag rack.
- **Volunteer(s) Needed:** Looking for a one-time committee coordinator to prepare and serve a meal to the W&M Wesley Foundation one Sunday evening this fall (September 6 or November 22) If you feel this might be something you would like to do, please contact Fran Delo and she will put you in touch with the pastor serving the Wesley Foundation.
- **Bridge Group:** Bridge meets at 10 am and 6:30 pm, Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall all are welcome.
- **Cereal/Food Donations:** Food donations are encouraged year round! Food such as cereal are needed even more during the summer months as children don't have access to school provided breakfast/lunch. Consider picking up a box on your next shopping trip.

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The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026, 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