

## Participating in Worship Today

Piano: Julie von Eschen  
Song Leaders: Steve & Kelly Brumm  
Greeter: Catie Zurbuchen  
Ushers: Phil & Pat Leavenworth  
Reader: Barbara Schmidt  
Audio Tech: Alan Ferguson  
Communion Bread: Judy Hale  
Serving Communion: Judy Hale & Margy Murray  
Dishwashers: Deb Anderson &  
Catie Zurbuchen &  
Counting Crew: Beth Albert & Margy Murray  
Youth Ministries: Mary Penninga  
Pastor: Brad Brookins  
Ministers: All the people

### *The Lord's Prayer*

*Our Father 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 sins,*

*As we forgive those who sin 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*

Mt Vernon Zwingli United Church of Christ

1693 Washington St.

Mt. Vernon, Wisconsin 53593

Office tel: (608) 832-6677

e-mail: church@mtvernonucc.org

Web Site: mtvernonucc.org

*The Mt Vernon United Church of Christ  
is an Open and Affirming Congregation*



The most practical thing is not to weep but to act and to have faith in God's assistance and grace in our trying to do God's will.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel



# Mt Vernon United Church of Christ

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

### Greeting

\* **Hymn**                      *All Earth is Waiting*                      (NCH #121)

L: These are fearful days. Words of hate. Acts of terror. Welcomes withheld. Truths denied. Anxiety is a constant companion; Hope feels like a stranger.

**P: Show us how you work, GOD; School us in your ways. Take us by the hand; Lead us down the path of [well-being]. You are our Savior, aren't you? Mark the milestones of your mercy and love.**

Psalm 25: 5-7 *adapted from The Message*

L: Remember God's ancient promises: Justice is coming! Love is on the way! Lift up your heads and watch for the signs!                      *Luke 21: 28, paraphrased*

Today we will light the first candle of Advent, a candle of Hope. As it burns in the silence, think about the signs you are seeing of God at work in our lives and in our world right now. And in this silence, consider where we might contribute to that work.

### Silence

**Prelude**                      *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

L: May this candle of Advent Hope shine in our hearts all week, reminding us to lift up our heads and open our eyes; to watch all around for signs of the Holy One

\* **Song**                      *Canticle of the Turning*

### \* Prayer

Holy and Loving God, we give thanks for the promise of this sacred season and for the hope we find in the Christ Child. We confess that we often fail to live out this hope. We are easily distracted by our own projects and preparations and we lose focus on the one who is the Source of our hope. Forgive us, God, and restore we pray. Amen.

### \* Assurance

The promise of the season of Advent is the promise of Emmanuel, God with us. We are called to keep awake, to be ready for his arrival. So let us lay aside all those things that distract us from faithful watching for God, believing the Good News of the Gospel—that in Jesus we are forgiven and through him we all can say:

### *Thanks be to God!*

*O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

### Story Box

### What's Happening

**Offering**                      **Stubborn Ounces**                      **Bonaro Overstreet**

*(To One Who Doubts the Worth of  
Doing Anything If You Can't Do Everything)*

**Offertory**                      *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

\* **Response**                      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!*

### \* Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of hopeful waiting, clear away the distractions of this season that we might offer our whole lives as gifts to you. Make these offerings one token of your promise as it breaks into the world in acts of compassion and justice. Amen.

### 1st Scripture Reading

*On and On it Goes*                      **Beth & Steve Albert**

### 2nd Scripture Reading

### Sermon

### The Table

### We are invited

### Our Prayers of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

*Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray...*

\* **Hymn**                      *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*                      (NCH 122)

\* **Benediction**                      *Go into the world and keep awake...*

MT. VERNON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TEL: (608) 832-6677 E-MAIL: [CHURCH@MTVERNONUCC.ORG](mailto:CHURCH@MTVERNONUCC.ORG)  
Web Site: [mtvernonucc.org](http://mtvernonucc.org)

*The Mt Vernon United Church of Christ  
is an Open and Affirming Congregation*



**Serving in Worship on December 8, 2019**

**Please Note— We Need Help For Next Week**

Greeter:  
Ushers: Tisha Brown & Jeff Jenkins  
Audio Tech: Alan Ferguson  
Reader:  
Communion Bread:  
Serving Communion (2):  
Counting Crew: Gerhard & Sonja Luetschwager  
Dishwashers (4):

**Every Sunday we share the Communion meal** during our worship service. In this church *absolutely everyone* is welcome and encouraged to come to the table to taste the bread and wine. So whoever you are, whatever you believe, or don't believe, whatever brought you here this morning, please come to the table.

**And after church upstairs we re-convene downstairs** around the dining tables for Mt Vernon's *Church 2.0*—perhaps the finest potluck brunch in Dane County, if not the entire state. Everyone is invited, of course, but if you are visiting with us today we offer a special invitation. There is always plenty of food, so don't be shy. Come and eat.

**Kid's Church today!** - Kid's remain in worship with their families, which includes their Story Box time with the pastor. Children's worship activity bags are located in the entryway for all who would like one.

**November Budget:** \$8,184    **Collected:** \$ 11,668

Totals for Year:  
End of Nov. Budget: \$96,341      Year-to-date Collected: \$ 89,864 (93%)

**The Community Clothes Closet blanket Drive** concludes this week. Any gently used or new blanket is welcome, but there is a special need for flannel

throws and for twin size blankets. If you have any questions contact Lori Burns at [troutmagic@msn.com](mailto:troutmagic@msn.com) 608-437-5952

**Our Caregivers are helping with the Verona FFA "Share a Toy"** collection again this year. It's a chance to clear your toy boxes of gently used toys, games, puzzles and books that your kids or grandkids have outgrown. New toys and cash donations are also welcome. There will be a collection box in the entry starting this week. See Judy Edwards if you have any questions. The toy drive will end on December 8.

**Kid's Christmas Program, December 22, during the church service** - Please let Mary Penninga and Judy Hale know if your child would like to participate! It will be very much like in years past. We will have practice on the two Sundays before and the morning of the program. **Calling all shepherds, sheep, readers, singers, angels, etc. We would love to have kids of all ages involved!**

**Catie Zurbuchen will lead a Kundalini Yoga and Meditation class** in the Fellowship Hall on December 7th, 2:30 to 4:00 pm Tea and cookies after the Yoga class.

Welcome all ages and levels! Raise awareness through movement and breath. Connect our finite being to the infinite. Reset our nervous systems through the healing sound of the gong and connect energetically through mantra in group meditation.

Please bring a yoga mat, meditation pillow, blanket, water bottle and wear comfortable clothing.

**Thanks to Judy Hale** for once again providing with a beautiful Christmas Tree. We will be decorating the tree and the sanctuary next Sunday following the worship service. Everyone is welcome to help out.

**The Mt Vernon United Church of Christ Welcome:**

*Responding to the grace of God, the Mt Vernon Zwingli United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome all persons— all races, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances. We recognize all people as children of God, welcome all people to worship and serve with us and consider all who come to be a necessary part of this fellowship with all its privileges and responsibilities.*

## ***All Earth is Waiting***

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:  
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'  
One whose name is 'God with us' our Savior shall be;  
Through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;  
open new highways, new highways for our God.  
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;  
yet feel that presence throughout the earth today,  
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Words: Alerto Taulé  
© 1993 OCP Publications;  
Transl. © 1989 United Methodist Publishing House  
Used by permission CCLI Lic # 1356087

(Prelude) ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***  
© 2009 Alfred Music Publishing  
Used by permission CCLI Lic # 1356087

(Offertory) ***Bless the Lord, O My Soul***  
Word Music, LLC, 2006  
Used by permission CCLI Lic # 1356087

## ***Canticle of the Turning***

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the  
God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the  
wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my  
weakness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my  
name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Chorus: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the  
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
work great things in me, And your mercy will last from the  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to  
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might,  
put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

Chorus

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your  
justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the  
food they can never earn; There are tables spread, ev'ry  
mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Chorus

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember  
who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver  
us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that out forebears heard is the  
promise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be  
crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Chorus (2X)

Words: Rory Cooney, GIA Publications, 1990  
Tune: Traditional Irish, Public Domain  
Used by permission CCLI Lic # 1356087

## **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
grant us your true liberty.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Enter every longing heart.

Born all people to deliver,  
born a child you came to reign,  
born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.  
By your own eternal spirit  
come to claim us as your own;  
By your all sufficient merit,  
let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, Public Domain