

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Ann Caldwell, organist; Charlotte Bearden, pianist
Vineville Brass, Kelly Graves, director

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 22, 2017

8:30 AND 10:45 AM



Prelude	<i>Prelude and Fugue in G Minor</i>	Bach
Welcome		Richard Kremer
Music for Meditation	<i>Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies' Sake</i>	Farrant
All are encouraged to use this time as intentional preparation for the worship of God.		
Invocation		Kent Russell
*Hymn 19	<i>I Sing the Mighty Power of God</i>	FOREST GREEN
Children are invited to gather at the front as we sing the final stanza		
Children's Sermon		Russell Honeycutt
The Lord's Prayer		
Ministry of Music	<i>Joyful, Joyful</i>	Cindie Ortiz
Scripture Reading	Romans 8:10-17	Brianna Pylant
Pastoral Prayer		Richard Kremer
*Hymn of Confession 500 verses 1, 2, 3, 4	<i>Just As I Am</i>	WOODWORTH
*Offertory Prayer		Angela Blizzard
Offertory	<i>Be Still My Soul</i>	arr. Howlett
Scripture Reading	Psalm 51	Richard Kremer
Ministry of Music	<i>God of Heaven</i> Carmel Bryant, sign language	Sorenson
Sermon	"We Are Sponges"	Richard Kremer
*Hymn of Response 163	<i>Wonderful Words of Life</i>	WORDS OF LIFE
*Celebrations and Concerns		Richard Kremer
*Pastoral Benediction		Richard Kremer
*Postlude	<i>Prelude in Classic Style</i>	Young

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Excepting New Year's Day, I have been, or will be, in the pulpit every Sunday throughout January, God willing, delivering a message meant to challenge you to consider the health of your faith and service to God as we embark on a new pilgrimage together. All four messages are meant to inspire a measure of introspection on our part as to how we can improve as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The first message in the series, "*What Are Your Assumptions About God?*" was meant to challenge you to identify what you regard as your fundamental beliefs about God – not what you are supposed to believe, but what you really believe. We assume that our basic assumptions about God are based on the most logical, rational of decisions, but in fact, these assumptions often stem from erroneous and unsubstantiated opinions. Using the story of Eve and the serpent I noted how great calamity can result when we act out of assumptions about God that are baseless, assumptions that we often glean from people who know nothing about the subject on which they speak.

The second message, last week's sermon, "*What Will You Feed Your Soul?*" calls to the fore how we structure our lives to receive spiritual nourishment. Sure, participation in communal worship and Bible study is a vital form of that spiritual nourishment, but there are other disciplines in which we need to engage to nurture our inner life. In truth, what we watch, what we read, how we play, with whom we commune – all of these factors speak to the health of our soul. I encouraged you to make it a point this year to "unplug" occasionally and read a good book, particularly good biographies of great people, for in witnessing how such people weathered their times of difficulty, we learn lessons in how to survive and thrive amidst our own adversities.

This week's message, "*We are Sponges,*" speaks to a topic you may have never heard addressed sermonically before, yet it has to do with our fundamental human tendency to soak up influences that can destroy us. Sure, we can take steps to feed our souls positively – that was last week's message. But we must also be aware of our predilection to imbibe influences and criticisms that can quench our spirit, darken our personality, even end our life. The suicide rate among all ages in our culture is rising at an alarming rate, a fact attributable in part to our propensity to internalize negativity. How does the Bible guide us to handle the negativity that swirls around all aspects of contemporary life? That's today's topic.

Next week's message is meant to serve as the climax of the series, "*You Hold the Key.*" Examining the narrative of Moses and the example of Joshua and Caleb, I note how we only move forward in life as mature disciples of Christ when we realize the power and potential that God places within us. The people of Israel almost lost hope in ever realizing their ambition of reaching the Promised Land. "Dream-killers" in their midst nearly derailed their pilgrimage. But Moses, Caleb and Joshua delivered a different message: *We can do it! We hold the key!* Strange to say, but one of the simplest and hardest lessons for any of us to learn is that we hold the key to our own happiness. I will try to drive home this truth next Sunday.

Incidentally, the first Sunday of February (Super Bowl Sunday!) is communion Sunday, when will underscore our status as the family of God and introduce those new members who have joined us since our last communion, honoring them with a reception following the 10:45 am service. The title of the communion homily that day is "*The Day the Stupid Man Preached.*" Provide your own punch line . . .

A word from your pastor,
Dr. Richard Kremer

SYMPATHY

We extend Christian sympathy to the following families: Omega Wood and her family in the death of her brother-in-law, Lewis Scott. Russell and Mildred Brown and their family in the death of Russell's nephew, Jeff Horton.

NEW MEMBERS

Jerry and Brenda Songer

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Dan Hudson in loving memory of his wife, Pearl, for their 66th wedding anniversary on January 22.

YOUTH

Today: Youth choir at 4:00 pm, dinner at 5:00 pm, and “End of the Spear” movie until 6:30 pm. Youth committee meeting at 6:30 pm in the youth room.

Wednesday: Joseph Bible Study, part 3. Come as we discuss Joseph’s time in prison and being forgotten in Chapter 40 and how God provides for Joseph in Chapter 41.

Parent Youth Book Study: Parents and youth are invited to participate in a book study of *Francis Chan’s Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God* beginning on Sunday, February 12th from 5:30-6:30 pm. Books have been ordered and can be purchased for \$10 each. We will have a ten-week study of this book and its application to faithful living in Christ. Please contact Angela or Brianna if you are interested.

XYZ

A Valentine Luncheon will be Thursday, February 9 at the University of Georgia Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton. The cost is \$35 which includes a special Valentine meal. The deadline to purchase a ticket is January 24.

SUMMER MISSION OPPORTUNITY

We are looking to take a team on a short term (weekend) missionary training trip to Clarkston, GA through Global Frontier Missions, June 30 through July 2. This weekend would provide evangelism and outreach training, focusing on reaching out to cultures and religions different from our own. Please contact Angela Blizzard by Sunday, February 5th if you or members of your family may be interested in learning and serving! Adults of all ages and youth ages 16 and up are welcome! Kids can go with a participating parent/guardian.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Finding I AM

Ladies of VBC: Join us as we journey with Lysa TerKeurst on the streets of Israel to explore the seven I AM statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Stop living like a slave to your circumstances by training your heart to embrace the truth God wants to reveal to you. A six-session study will be February 23 and every Thursday in March. The Bible study is from 12 noon - 1 pm. Purchase your study guide at Lifeway for \$14.99. No reservations necessary. For additional information contact Sandra Higgison at 742-1990 or 390-1450 or email shiggision2@gmail.com.

ROUND TABLE

The Round Table will meet Monday, February 6 at 10:45 am in the Parlor. Ambassador Jonathan Addleton will discuss his recent book, *The Dust of Kandahar, A Diplomat among Warriors*. Based partly on his journal, the book describes everyday human drama of American soldiers, Afghan tribal dignitaries, government officials, and religious leaders with whom he interacted and worked. Please bring a covered dish.

OLD CITY FLOWER FESTIVAL

The sixth annual Old City Flower Festival will be January 21-24 at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church. The hours for public viewing will be:

- Saturday, January 21st 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 22nd 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 23rd 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 24th 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our own Roslyn Platt will once again create an arrangement to represent Vineville. Her arrangement will reflect the theme for this year's festival: *The Art of Our Worship*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7

Men's Fellowship

6:30 p.m.

March 9-11

Children's Consignment Sale

March 24-25

CBF Spring Assembly at VBC

THIS WEEK AT VINEVILLE

Sunday, January 22

8:30 am Early Service

9:15 am Media Library

9:35 am Bible Study

10:45 am Worship

2:00 pm Handbells

4:00 pm Youth Choir

5:00 pm Sunday Night Youth Fellowship

Monday, January 23

No Activities

Tuesday, January 24

10:30 am Exercise/Stretching Class

11:00 am XYZ Fun Day

Wednesday, January 25

9:00 am Media Library

5:30 pm Vineville Brass

5:30 pm Family Supper

6:00 pm Children's Choirs

6:15 pm Media Library

6:30 pm Family Worship

6:45 pm Mission Friends

6:45 pm Kingdom Kids

6:45 pm Youth Bible Study

7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 26

10:30 am Exercise/Stretching Class

6:30 pm Men's Basketball

Friday, January 27

No Activities

Saturday, January 28

Youth Church Basketball

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, January 29

8:30 am Early Service

9:15 am Media Library

9:35 am Bible Study

10:45 am Worship

2:30 pm Handbells

4:00 pm Youth Choir

5:00 pm Sunday Night Youth Fellowship

DEACON OF THE WEEK

The Deacon of the Week is Len Hindsman. Next week is John Kelly.

REPORT AS OF JANUARY 15

ATTENDANCE

Bible Study	198
8:30 Worship	33
10:45 Worship	199

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Gifts	\$13,964
Budget Gifts (YTD)	\$36,596
Budget Required (YTD)	\$52,380
YTD% Budget Giving	68.5%
Following Christ 2 (YTD)	\$342.

OUR STAFF

Richard Kremer	Pastor
Angela Blizzard	Minister of Music
Angela Blizzard	Minister to Youth
Brianna Pylant	Music and Youth Intern
Peggy Jones	Financial Administrator
Jody Thornton	Administrative Assistant
Ginny Ferguson	Receptionist
Sandra Head	Music Ministry Coordinator
Tonia Boyd	Weekday Morning School
Rhea Patrick &	Co-Teachers
Sherry Williams	of Higher Life

OUR LAY LEADERSHIP

Church Council	John Fry, Jr.	477-1295
Deacon Ministry	Mark Wood	957-7540
Grief Ministry	Nell Jones	960-6195
Media Center	Carol Lincoln	743-9366
Men's Ministry	Todd Smith	474-6333
Missions	Jim Jones	757-8411
Preschool	Bobbie Scarbrough	254-4595
Senior Adults-XYZ	Jackie Odom	746-1716
Sunday School	Jeane Easom	719-1289
WMU	Cris Williamson	719-1581
Women's Ministry	Susan Milam	714-0545