

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Ann Caldwell, organist; Don Kendrick, pianist
Vineville Brass, Kelly Graves, director

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 8, 2018

8:30 AND 10:45 AM



Prelude	<i>Aria</i>	Handel
Welcome		Angela Blizzard
Music for Meditation	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	arr. Rocherolle
Invocation		Cathy Corrigan
*Hymn 64	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	ST. COLUMBIA
Children are invited to gather up front as we sing the final stanza.		
Children's Sermon		Stacy Whitehead
The Lord's Prayer		
Ministry of Music	<i>There Is a Higher Throne</i> Barbara Altman, cello	Angela Blizzard
Pastoral Prayer		Richard Kremer
Scripture Reading	Psalm 42:1-8	Leigh Halverson
*Hymn 68	<i>He Leadeth Me</i>	HE LEADETH ME
Offertory Prayer		Angela Blizzard
Offertory	<i>God's Time Is Best</i>	Bach
Scripture Reading	Luke 22:47-51	Richard Kremer
Ministry of Music	<i>You Think of Me</i> Barbara Altman, cello	Mock/Nichols
Sermon	"The Man Who Lost His Story"	Richard Kremer
*Hymn of Response 581	<i>I Love to Tell the Story</i>	HANKEY
*Celebrations and Concerns		Richard Kremer
* Pastoral Benediction		
*Postlude	<i>Fanfare</i>	Soler

The Biblical View of Government

I keep my political views private. But when politicians stray into my territory, posing as Biblical scholars, I have no choice but to respond with an informed perspective.

Most everyone knows that until recently our government was separating children from their parents when those parents tried to apply for political asylum at the United States border. That policy, since rescinded, drew criticism from across the political spectrum, including from such stalwart conservatives as former First Lady Laura Bush and Franklin Graham. In response to opposition from the evangelical community, the US Attorney General chided these believers that such negative responses to government policy were illegitimate, because the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 13: "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities. . . . Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed"

Of course Scripture is shaped by the culture in which it is written. In the early AD 50s, when Paul was at the height of his ministry, he benefitted from Roman roads, Roman laws, even Roman officials who stepped in and rescued him from Jewish mobs that would have killed him. It was only natural that Paul, who highly valued his Roman citizenship, saw the Roman government as aiding his promulgation of the Gospel. But within a few years, the Roman government went from passively tolerating Christianity to violently persecuting it. Christianity's attitude toward government changed with those altered circumstances.

As I said in an earlier message, "*How Do You Use the Bible?*" to use the Bible properly, one must take into account the whole of Scripture. Romans 13 cannot be cited apart from Revelation 13. The government that was cited as "appointed by God" in Romans 13 was denounced as a demonic beast to be resisted in Revelation 13: "And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months; it open its mouth to utter blasphemies against God" (Rev. 13 5-6)

In short, the Bible says that while there are times when one's government is to be respected, there are also times when one's government is to be resisted. When one's government acts in bestial fashion, one has the right and the privilege to protest against it. This fundamental truth permeates our entire Bible. God may have placed Pharaoh on his throne. But God also sent Moses to challenge Pharaoh and declare Egypt's enslavement policy null and void. God says to Pharaoh through Moses, "Let my people go!" Examine the prophetic careers of Elijah, Nathan, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and John the Baptist. All of these men of God felt compelled and empowered to challenge their government and its authorities on behalf of the higher duty of faith. All of them embodied the principle articulated by Peter and John in the face of the Jewish political authorities: "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19)

Whether the administration's immigration policy is good or bad, moral or immoral, that's a matter each of you must decide for yourself. But know that the Bible's view of government is nuanced and dialectical: when one's government acts with probity and righteousness, the Bible says, 'Respect it.' But when one's government violates the tenets of decency, compassion and justice, the Bible says, 'Call it to account!'

Having just celebrated our Independence Day, we do well to remember that preachers in England denounced the American Revolution on the basis of Romans 13. The same passage was used to justify slavery and racial injustice. But Romans 13 is not God's only word when it comes to one's attitude toward government. Indeed, this subject warrants a full-length sermon sometime in the future, for the history of Christianity's attitude toward government is a fascinating, often surprising saga, one well-worth knowing.

A word from your pastor,
Dr. Richard Kremer

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Peggy and Len Hindsman in honor of Peggy's birthday on July 12, and in loving memory of their parents, Geneva and Hal Johnson and Annie Laurie and Leonard Hindsman, Sr. and in celebration of Peggy's fourteen years as a breast cancer survivor.

VBC Kids

July 17

Lego Movie at Amstar
\$4 includes popcorn and soda

July 24

Storks Movie at Amstar
\$4 includes popcorn and soda

July 27

Faith and Fellowship Night
Fireworks at Macon Bacon
7:00 pm Tickets: \$10

August 3

Back to School Splash
6:00-8:00 pm Pool Party at the Terry's
Pizza!

August 5

Promotion and Big Enough Sunday
First graders will attend worship!

August 8

Wednesday Activities Resume
Note time change: Dinner at 5:30 pm as usual and
Children's Choirs, Kingdom Kids, and Mission Friends
will begin at 6:15 pm

YOUTH

Today: Kickball at Oak Haven Park! Meet at little before 4:00 pm at VBC, and we will wrap up around 5:30 pm! Rising 7th graders are welcome!!

Tuesday, July 10th: Breakfast and devotion for youth in town and available! Forsyth Road Burger King at 9:00 am.

Wednesday: Red, White and Bluegrass with watermelon – churchwide event!

Youth Lockin: July 27th! We need to know if you are coming!! Please text Angela or sign-up in the youth room!

FALL BAZAAR

Fall Bazaar needs for Summer Sailing:

White Elephant market: the good, the bad, the ugly

International & National market: souvenirs, travel collectibles

Vintage market: the old

Gift Shoppe: the nice stuff (needing to unclutter)

Gently Used market: nuff' said

Thank you,
Harold McAbee

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11

Red, White, and Bluegrass

July 18

Faith Lessons/Science Experiments

July 25

Potluck Supper and Back-to-School Prayer

August 5

Promotion and Big Enough Sunday/First graders will attend worship!

August 8

Wednesday Activities Resume/*Note time change*: Dinner at 5:30 pm as usual and Children's Choirs, Kingdom Kids, and Mission Friends will begin at 6:15 pm

THIS WEEK AT VINEVILLE

Sunday, July 8

8:30 am Early Service
9:15 am Media Library
9:35 am Bible Study
10:45 am Worship
4:00 pm SNYF

Monday, July 9

No Activities

Tuesday, July 10

10:30 am Exercise/Stretching Class

Wednesday, July 11

9:00 am Media Library
5:30 pm Vineville Brass
5:30 pm Family Supper
6:15 pm Media Library
6:15 pm Red, White, and Bluegrass

Thursday, July 12

10:30 am Exercise/Stretching Class

Friday, July 13

No Activities

Sunday, July 15

8:30 am Early Service
9:15 am Media Library
9:35 am Bible Study
10:45 am Worship
4:00 pm SNYF
6:00 pm Deacons Meeting

SOUND, LIGHTS, AND VIDEO

July 8

Early Service 8:30 am

House: Gene Welch

Broadcast: John Kuipers

Video: Kevin Clark

Morning Worship 10:45 am

House: Wade Wilbourn

Broadcast: John Fry

Video: Kevin Clark

DEACON OF THE WEEK

The Deacon of the Week is Respass Carr. Next week is Brenton Easom.

REPORT AS OF JUNE 24

ATTENDANCE

Bible Study	181
8:30 Worship	33
10:45 Worship	191

STEWARDSHIP AS OF JUNE 24

Budget Offering	\$12,391
Following Christ 2 (YTD)	\$43,275

YTD Budget Contributions	\$385,582
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OUR STAFF

Richard Kremer	Pastor
Angela Blizzard	Minister of Music
Angela Blizzard	Minister to Youth
Leigh Halverson	Minister to Family and Education
Peggy Jones	Financial Administrator
Jody Thornton	Administrative Assistant
Ginny Ferguson	Receptionist
Sandra Head	Music Ministry Coordinator
Tonia Boyd	Weekday Morning School
Kathy McCray	Higher Life

OUR LAY LEADERSHIP

Church Council	Todd Smith	474-6333
Deacon Ministry	Kathy Kendrick	256-3468
Grief Ministry	Nell Jones	960-6195
Homebound	Ann Purser	477-7549
Media Center	Carol Lincoln	743-9366
Men's Ministry	Todd Smith	474-6333
Missions	Jim Jones	757-8411
Senior Adults-XYZ	Jackie Odom	746-1716
Sunday School	Jeane Easom	719-1289
Women's Ministry	Susan Milam	714-0545