



## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

DECEMBER 8, 2019

10:45 AM

Ann Caldwell, organist; Jane Self, pianist  
Vineville Brass, Kelly Graves, director

## HANGING OF THE GREEN

Prelude *The Holly and the Ivy* Milford

### A Voice Crying in the Wilderness

Welcome and a Word of Explanation Richard Kremer

Call to Worship *O Children, Come* Choir and Congregation

#### Congregation join on third verse

Where the Father's grace has walked, "O children, come!"  
Where you see the hurt and lost, "O children, come!"  
Show the mercy shown to you; gifts of kindness to renew  
Love from hearts sincere and true, "O children, come!" "O children, come!"

Invocation Ray Wilkes

Music for Celebration *Go Tell it on the Mountain* Vineville Bluegrass

Lighting of the Candle of Peace Benjamin and Matthew Smith

Pastor: Come fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King

**People: All lands will bow before Him, their voices join to sing.**

Pastor: Of peace and hope abounding, of joy to heaven resounding

**People: Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!**

Pastor: Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word.

**People: And longing for his Presence on this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Peace.**

\*Hymn of Summons 103 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

### A Little Child Shall Lead Them

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 11:1-9* Leigh Halverson

Song by Preschool Choir *Listen! Listen!* Talmadge Butler

### All Ages Shall Praise Him

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7* Angela Blizzard

Song by Treble Makers Choir *Advent Song* Barnard

Song by Youth Choir *Sanna Sannanina* arr. Delanoy

Song by Ladies Ensemble	<i>Calypso Lullaby</i>	arr. Hairston
Scripture Reading	Genesis 1:21-28; Isaiah 1:3	Richard Kremer
Homily	<b>“The Whole of Creation”</b>	Richard Kremer
*Hymn 122	<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	IN DULCI JUBILO
Offertory Prayer		Leigh Halverson
Offertory	<i>Te Deum</i>	arr. Smith
Song by Combined Choirs	<i>Come, O Rose (Advent Processional)</i>	Greig
Invitation to Discipleship		Richard Kremer
*Hymn of Response 127	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	MENDELSSOHN
<b>Joy to the World!</b>		
*Celebrations and Concerns		Richard Kremer
*Metaphor of Light		Richard Kremer
*Pastoral Benediction		
*Congregational Benediction	<i>Joy to the World</i> (final verse) <b>He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.</b>	ANTIOCH
Postlude	<i>Proclamation on ‘Wachet auf’</i>	Miller

## EVERY COLOR MEANS SOMETHING!

As we gather this morning I hope that you began this day of worship by enjoying our Advent breakfast. We thank Melissa and her cadre of dedicated helpers for rising early and preparing our celebratory meal. Thanks to all who gave of their time and talent to prepare, serve and clean up after the breakfast. And thanks to all who rose early to partake of their gift to us.

I welcome you this morning to my favorite service of the year – the Hanging of the Green. I have tried in vain to ascertain when the liturgical practice of adorning the sanctuary at Advent in preparation for the coming of the Christ began. Apparently the practice has its roots in England, where households began hanging evergreens outside their homes on the first Sunday of Advent. And yet, as I will explain this morning, every aspect of the service, every act of adornment, has its roots in Christian traditions that go back many centuries. Every color with which we decorate our sanctuary carries theological significance. Every color means something!

I express gratitude to everyone who donated a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, and thanks to everyone who fills a role this morning in helping us decorate our sanctuary to the glory of God. Special thanks go to all of the choir leaders, accompanists, instrumentalists and singers who are sharing their talents with us today. The highlight of the service will be a “sermon in song” delivered by our joined choirs. What a delight!

Speaking of sermons in song, next week we have a special treat in store for us. During our combined worship service at 10:45 am, our adult choir, accompanied by orchestra, will present *God Came Near*. Our choir’s Christmas music always conveys meaning and wonder. I encourage you to come and invite a friend. This will be another joyous service of worship.

Remember also that we have two special events before us on successive Wednesday nights in December. This coming Wednesday, December 11, at 6:45 pm, the children’s and youth choirs of the church will be presenting their Christmas concert in the sanctuary. You will not want to miss this enjoyable evening of music.

On the following Wednesday, December 18, we have a special treat for you, a presentation by the “Vineville Church Players” of a three-act comedy entitled, *The Christmas Maker*. The play will take place in the sanctuary at 6:45 pm. The multi-generational cast, which is vast, has been working since October on this drama, and I promise they will delight you. We invite you not only to come but to invite friends and neighbors. This is definitely meant to be an outreach event. We will have our usual Wednesday night meal that evening beginning at 5:30 pm. Even if you don’t normally eat with us, plan to do so that night. This will be our last Wednesday night gathering of 2019.

If you have not already done so, be sure to pick up our 2019 Advent booklet. The booklet features stories, testimonials, artwork and Scriptures for every day of Advent, continuing through Christmas Day. Again, many thanks go to Jody Thornton and Melissa Kremer for their hard work in shaping our entries into a publishable form! And thanks to all who offered a contribution to this meaningful Advent instrument.

Sunday, December 22, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, will be our Pledge Sunday. We will take time that Sunday to bring our pledge cards to the altar as an expression of our gratitude to God for the gift of the Christ. This is always a meaningful and powerful communal expression of stewardship. If you are not able to be present that Sunday, please mail your pledge card in as soon as possible.

The Christmas Eve “Candles, Carols and Communion,” service will be at 5 pm. And remember, if you have picked up an Angel Tree request or a Salvation Army stocking, note that they need to be returned by Tuesday, December 10.

A word from your pastor,  
Dr. Richard Kremer

## SYMPATHY

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Martha Smith.

## IN MEMORIUM

Martha Smith  
March 20, 1931 - November 26, 2019

## FLOWERS

The flowers this morning are dedicated to the faithful girls, boys, men, and women who faithfully serve in the Vineville Baptist Music Ministry. May God be praised!

## YOUTH

**Today:** Youth will attend play practice at 4:00 pm. No other youth evening activities.

**Wednesday:** Children and youth Christmas music program on Wednesday. Youth will need to arrive in room 106 by 6:15pm. Youth may wear festive attire appropriate for leading in worship.

**Next Sunday:** *The Christmas Maker* dress rehearsal. This is a mandatory rehearsal for all cast members! Thank you for your dedication

## PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

There are opportunities to serve in 8:30 and 10:45 worship services, 9:30 Sunday School, and Wednesday nights with babies through kindergarten. Please contact Leigh Halverson for more information.

## HYGIENE ITEMS

Church family, we will begin collecting hygiene items during the first week of December to create hygiene kits for the people in need that Dr. Kremer and his crew serve over the holidays. We will collect toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hand sanitizer, Band-Aids, small shampoos and conditioners, lotions, soap, and feminine hygiene products. Our final collection day will culminate on the Hanging of the Green Breakfast, December 8th. Thank you!

## ANGEL TREE AND STOCKINGS

The deadline for participating in the Angel Tree and Stockings is this Tuesday.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 11**  
Children and Youth  
Christmas Program

**December 15**  
VBC Sanctuary Choir  
*God Came Near*

**December 18**  
The Christmas Maker  
Three-Act Comedy Play

**December 24**  
Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

## THIS WEEK AT VINEVILLE

### Sunday, December 8

8:15 AM Advent Breakfast  
8:30 AM No Early Service  
9:15 AM Media Library  
9:35 AM Bible Study  
10:45 AM Hanging of the Green  
2:30 PM Handbells  
4:00 PM Play Rehearsal - All ages

### Monday, December 9

No Activities

### Tuesday, December 10

10:30 AM Exercise/Stretching Class

### Wednesday, December 11

9:00 AM Media Library  
5:15 PM Vineville Brass  
5:30 PM Family Supper  
6:45 PM Children & Youth Christmas  
Choir Programs  
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 12

10:30 AM Exercise/Stretching Class

### Friday, December 13

No Activities

### Sunday, December 15

8:30 AM No Early Service  
9:15 AM Media Library  
9:35 AM Bible Study  
10:45 AM Sanctuary Choir Christmas  
Program *God Came Near*  
4:00 PM Play Rehearsal - All ages



## A CONVENIENT OPTION FOR GIVING



The QR code can be scanned with your smartphone and it will direct you to the VBC giving website.

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

The Deacon of the Week is Harold McAbee. Next week is Michael O'Neal.

## LIVE STREAMING

If you are unable to attend our worship services, you can stream them live from our website: [www.vbcmacon.org](http://www.vbcmacon.org).

## REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 1

### ATTENDANCE

Bible Study	146
8:30 Worship	---
10:45 Worship	156

### STEWARDSHIP

Budget Offering	\$16,676
Following Christ 2 (YTD)	\$51,079
YTD Budget Contributions	\$732,632

## OUR STAFF

Richard Kremer	Pastor
Angela Blizzard	Minister of Music & Youth
Leigh Halverson	Minister to Family & 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	Kay Defore	476-9986
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