



Vineville Baptist Church



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

AUGUST 9, 2020

Ann Caldwell, organist

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prelude	<i>Prelude in D Major</i>	Fischer
Welcome and Invocation		Angela Blizzard
Meditation	<i>Angelus</i>	Vineville Handbell Ensemble
Scripture Reading	1 Kings 19:9-18	Leigh Halverson
Hymn 641	<i>Higher Ground</i>	HIGHER GROUND

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Refrain:

**Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.**

I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Back to School Blessing Leigh Halverson

Leader: O Holy God, the time has come when school begins. As these your children begin their studies, we ask a blessing on each one of them as they prepare for another year of learning.

People: O Lord of Life and Love, Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in the coming days and weeks and months. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children.

People: O Lord of Life and Love, Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless, O God, all school personnel, including administrators, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, nurses, counselors, and custodians, that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion.

People: O Lord of Life and Love, Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless, O God, each one gathered here that we will seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you by our involvement in church, and through all our classes for children, youth, and adult learners. Grant that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly.

People: **O Lord of Life and Love, Hear our prayer.**

Leader: And bless, O God, our cherished children, those whom we have promised to love and nurture. Keep them safe, keep them excited, keep them ever seeking to learn more and to develop their gifts. Grant that through their study, they may gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service, all their days.

People: **O Lord of Life and Love, Hear our prayer.**

ALL: **Bless, O God, all those who are starting back to school in all it's varied forms. O Lord of Life and Love, Hear our prayer. Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer

We invite everyone to stand as we all say the Lord's Prayer together.

Ministry of Music	<i>I Surrender All</i>	Vineville Handbell Ensemble
Pastoral Prayer		Mike Ruffin
Scripture Reading	Matthew 14:22-33	Mike Ruffin
Sermon	"What Are We Doing Here?"	Mike Ruffin
Song of Response	<i>Living for Jesus</i>	YARBROUGH

Living for Jesus, a life that is true,
Striving to please Him in all that I do;
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

Refrain:

**O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,
For Thou, in Thine atonement, didst give Thyself for me;
I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.**

Living for Jesus through earth's little while,
My dearest treasure, the light of His smile;
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem,
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him.

*Pastoral Benediction

Mike Ruffin

*Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

arr. J. Pethel

FROM THE PASTOR

Third Chronicles

The first two *Vision* articles in this series have focused on what steps we as church leaders have taken to conduct the church's business during this pandemic era. This third *Vision* column has to do with providing a comprehensive list of the online opportunities that our church staff has provided to the congregation. Perhaps you have taken advantage of some of these online offerings – but perhaps you have not been aware of other worship and fellowship opportunities.

Of course, while we are offering safe and prudent in-person worship at 10:45 on Sunday mornings, we are also offering the service via livestream on our website and via Facebook. And if you have missed some of these services, please know that they are archived on the church website. You can even access a text of any sermon I have preached in 2020. We have had some marvelous services of worship during this pandemic. Via our website you have access to all of them.

Moreover, starting in mid-March, I have been offering three Pick Me Ups every week. Presently, there are forty-five different Pick Me Ups that you can access, providing weekly inspirational thoughts and stories. Some of these Pick Me Ups describe the development of key theological doctrines, some recount the exploits of pivotal Christian leaders, some perhaps introduce you to people whose examples of faith and courage serve as sources of hope and insight amidst this pandemic.

Every Wednesday night Leigh Halverson posts my weekly Bible study in the Gospel of John. Again, if you have not been accessing this series, you can find the weekly chapters catalogued on the website. Leigh generally posts these about 6:30 pm every Wednesday.

In addition, Angela Blizzard has posted numerous musical offerings that are catalogued on our website. Many of these songs are meant to inspire and encourage; others are meant simply to brighten your day. My personal favorite is "People are Gerny, Stay Home." One of her latest entries is a beautiful song whose words were penned by John Donne, featured in my last Pick Me Ups. If you are looking for a little musical moment to nourish your soul, these songs can fill the bill.

Leigh Halverson has also been filming testimonials of faith from folks in our congregation. If you haven't yet accessed these, they are also still available for your viewing and edification. These testimonials may acquaint you afresh with folks you have known for years, or they may introduce you to members you have not yet met. By the way, Leigh is always looking for more volunteers for these testimonials. Please make yourself available. She will promise to film you in a safe and socially-distant manner.

There are also special treats to be found on our website. If you haven't viewed it -- or haven't viewed it in a while, you can find the Vineville Baptist Talent Show that Leigh filmed a couple of months ago. It is a delight! Leigh also created a devotional series for children called "Fruits of the Spirit," which she can share with you upon request. And she has been holding "Chat and Chill" Zoom meetings with our church's children on Sunday afternoons, a practice she will resume on August 9. The youth are enjoying Zoom Bible studies with Angela on Wednesday nights and always engage in some virtual activity together on Sunday evenings, too.

Some classes have held Sunday School via Zoom on Sunday mornings. For others, Sunday morning has not proved a great time for their class meetings, so Leigh is encouraging Sunday School classes to choose alternative dates and times during the week to hold Zoom meetings as we move into the fall. Leigh has even hosted a singles ministry "Virtual Game Night," an offering she will repeat soon.

To sum, we know that COVID-19 prevents us as a church staff from circulating among you in person. Churches that have relaxed their guard with regard to this disease have paid a stiff price, infecting members of their staff and their church family. So, for your sake and ours, we are keeping personal encounters with everyone to an absolute minimum. But if we cannot see you, we at least want you to see us, which is why we have gone to great lengths to maintain contact by virtual means. We will continue to be creative in offering these online opportunities, and if you have an idea for another form of virtual activity that would enhance our congregational connectedness, please let us know. We would love to hear it.

A word from your pastor,
Dr. Richard Kremer

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS AND ONGOING PRAYERS

We hope you'll engage in regular and purposeful prayer for the students and teachers of our church (and community!). A list of VBC students is available in the anteroom where you picked up your bulletin if you did not previously pick it up. We also hope you'll take and wear the silicone bracelet or place it on your key ring and allow it to be a visual reminder to pray for our students and teachers. May the Lord bless them and keep them safe.

MORNING SCHOOL BEGINS!

Spread the word about our ministry to the children in our community through our Christ-centered Morning School! It is not too late to sign up.

Tonia Boyd, Director
tboyd@vbcmacon.org
(478) 743-9366.

FALL BAZAAR

Remember the Fall Bazaar Gently Used Shoppe as you are finding things to do while at home. We appreciate anything you might like to donate from your attic, closets and drawers! No clothes or books, please. Crosses for yards are available for purchase in various sizes up to 6 ½ feet. Prices range from \$8 to \$22 and proceeds go to the Fall Bazaar. You can view them in M-106.

CURRENT NEEDS FOR MENTOR'S PROJECT

We have an ongoing list of needs for Mentor's Project for those who are able to continue to give to this cause. Our most pressing needs are non-perishable donations of **peanut butter, jelly** and **small bags of chips** and **snacks**. These items can be donated at the church in the donation bin. The best way to handle perishable donations would be to drop them off at 1233 Bass Road at June O'Neal's home. Please text Angela (478) 262-4600 once you have dropped off the items so we can be double-sure that June receives them from the coolers. Please contact Angela or Jennifer Kelly if you have questions.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT AS OF AUGUST 2

Budget Offering	\$7,983
Following Christ 2 (YTD)	\$5,865
YTD Budget Contributions	\$436,119

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 Bob Willingham. Next week is Eddie Wood.

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