



Pastoral Prayer

Richard Kremer

\*Hymn 601

*Oh How I Love Jesus*

O HOW I LOVE JESUS

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;  
It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus because he first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;  
It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]

It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;  
Who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. [Refrain]

Scripture Reading

Mark 6:1-6

Richard Kremer

Sermon

**"The Power of Unbelief"**

Richard Kremer

Hymn 594  
(choir only)

*Before the Throne of God Above*

BEFORE THE THRONE

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea;  
A great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me,  
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in heaven He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
For God the just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Celebrations and Concerns

Richard Kremer

\*Pastoral Benediction

Richard Kremer

\*Postlude

*Processional*

Handel

## FROM THE PASTOR

### **Marching Forward**

We welcome back to the sanctuary some of you today as we begin anew holding in-person worship. We also welcome those of you who continue to worship with us via livestream and Facebook. Without question we are in a transitional period, glad that some COVID-19 data suggests that case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths are going down, yet aware that other data suggests that mutant strains of the virus continue to pose a real threat. True to the spirit of a Baptist church, we encourage everyone to follow the dictates of their own discerning conscience. Each must decide what matrix of medical information seems most persuasive to them and act accordingly.

Our best hope for the resumption of what we once called normalcy continues to lie in the fact that production of the COVID-19 vaccines is ramping up, and our national and state governments are working hard to distribute those vaccines as quickly and as widely as possible. Take advantage of the vaccines as soon as they are available!

While holding in-person worship is nothing new for us – we did so from June through December -- this Sunday we introduce a new element, congregational singing of hymns. Of course, as we sing – and you are encouraged to sing softly, not boisterously -- everyone is asked to keep their masks on and wearing them in proper fashion, and everyone should be seated in a socially-distanced manner, and we have now installed a sophisticated air filtration system in the sanctuary – indeed, throughout the church – so as to make this act of worship as safe as possible. But again, we realize that each person must decide for themselves what they regard as safe worship practices.

If you have ordered a hand-crafted bowl as part of the Macon Mud Pottery initiative to benefit the Higher Life Ministry, be sure to pick up your bowl this week, March 8 -12, from 11 am to 3 pm. Cost of tickets is \$25 each.

You should have received a letter from deacon chair Peggy Hindsman this week reminding you of the upcoming Deacon Election. Included with that letter was a list of all the members of the church who are eligible for election as deacon this year. I remind you, if you do not want to be considered for election, be sure to call the church office immediately and remove your name from the list. Moreover, if your name was accidentally omitted from the list, and you are eligible for election, be sure to call the church office to add your name! The church will send out ballots in a couple of weeks, and we request that you return your completed ballot promptly. We will hold our in-person deacon election on Sunday, March 21, as required by our by-laws. Obviously, if you have already sent in an absentee ballot, please do not vote again on March 21. We will have an installation service, including the act of ordination for those elected deacon for the first time, on a Sunday in April.

On a lighter note, the NCAA will host their men's basketball tournament this year, which means we will be observing our annual Pastor's Pick-em again. Once the tournament is announced in mid- March, you will be invited to submit your entry – or entries – prior to the tournament tip-off. Each entry costs \$2 and all proceeds will go into our missions budget. I will personally buy a \$35 gift certificate to Ingleside Pizza for the winner. Basketball maven Frieda Byrd is the two-time (!) defending Pastor's Pick-em Champion.

Remember also that we are gearing up for a return to in-person Sunday School on Sunday, April 11, the Sunday after Easter. Other dates to remember include next Sunday, March 14, when we are called upon to “spring forward” and turn our clocks ahead an hour to acknowledge the return of Daylight Savings Time. Palm Sunday is March 28; Holy Wednesday is March 31; Maundy Thursday is April 1; and Good Friday is April 2. Parents and grandparents, those of you who have pre-ordered them, don't forget to pick up the Easter boxes that Leigh Halverson has prepared for the children to enhance their Holy Week appreciation. They will be ready for pick-up on March 17.

A word from your pastor,  
Dr. Richard Kremer

## SYMPATHY

We extend sympathy to the following families:

Paige Riley and her family in the death of her husband, Bobby.

Kelly and Edith Graves and their family in the death of Edith's sister, Daisy Jones.

## EASTER BOXES

Easter boxes will be available for pick up, by those who pre-ordered them, on March 17.



*Empty Bowls*  
**SOUP KITCHEN**  
11AM-3PM | MARCH 8-12  
Tickets \$25  
[www.maconmud.com](http://www.maconmud.com)  
All proceeds go to Higher Life Center  
A collaboration with  
GROW Fresh Local Food  
Macon Mud Pottery  
Micah Goguen Art



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 14. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT AS OF FEBRUARY 28

### STEWARDSHIP

Budget Offering	\$15,785
Following Christ 2 (YTD)	\$538
YTD Budget Contributions	\$111,197

## 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 Rick Jones. Next week is Harold McAbee.

## 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	Peggy Hindsman	719-5203
Grief Ministry	Nell Jones	960-6195
Homebound	Ann Purser	477-7549
Media Center	Kay Defore	476-9986
Men's Ministry	Todd Smith	474-6333
Senior Adults-XYZ	Jackie Odom	746-1716
Sunday School	Jeane Easom	719-1289