



Vernon Park Church of God

December 2017

Committed to loving God, loving others and serving others!

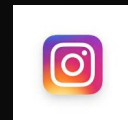
Joy to the World...



...the Lord has come!



Rev. Jerald January, Sr. - Senior Pastor
1975 E. Joe Orr Road, Lynwood, Illinois 60411
Phone: 708.753.1975 - Fax: 708.753.1977
Website: www.vpcog.org





Vernon Park *Church of God*

The Corner of Hope & Possibilities

A monthly reminder of what's possible!

Greetings Family,

God's love is exemplified in so many remarkable ways. When Jesus was born the world didn't have room for he and his parents. The world wasn't prepared, neither did it recognize the plan of God. And yet, a stable area became the staging area for the greatest gift ever given mankind.

In hindsight we've tried to clean up the story, but truthfully, it was a smelly, unsanitary, unequipped maternity ward. And yet, God was not deterred by the unawareness or unpreparedness of mankind.

Our lives are so mirrored in the birth of Christ. Some of us come from some remarkably imperfect situations.

While we were yet sinners and estranged from God, He was preparing things for our delivery into His Kingdom.

Now we're examples of purpose-filled productive lives, used to His glory.

During this blessed season we hope you consider sharing the greatest gift of all, God's love! After all, it is the true meaning of Christmas.

We're sharing our first Christmas as a family. It's a testament of how all things are possible and behold He has done a new thing. Enjoy the Joy of the season family.

*Peace,
Pastor J & Lady Maura*



PASTOR OF POSSIBILITIES



Vernon Park *Church of God*

Announcements

Phase I: Local Missions

Vernon Park
Church of God
Hurricane
Relief Effort



Winter Drive
Collection
Dates
12.12.17 to
1.14.18

We are asking for donations of adults and children's COATS, MITTENS and SCARVES (new and gently used) to aid the hundreds of displaced Puerto Ricans already in Chicago in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

THANK YOU!

Wedding Anniversaries

Herman & Beverly Holton - 23 years, December 4th

Deon & Geraldine McClinton - 18 years, December 11th

Andre & Wrenetha Poindexter - 24 years, December 15th

Calvin & Angela Lane - 8 years, December 26th



Responsive Readings

December 3, 2017, John 1:1-16 “The Light of All Mankind”

Lead: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

Cong: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

Lead: He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

Cong: He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

Lead: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Together: John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me. Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

Christmas in the Village

Sunday, December 24th

10:00 a.m.



Responsive Readings

December 10, 2017, Micah 5:1-4, 6-9, “A Promised Ruler from Bethlehem”

Lead: Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel’s ruler on the cheek with a rod. “But you, Bethlehem-Judah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Cong: Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

Lead: He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

Cong: And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

Lead: The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for anyone or depend on man. The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples.

Together: Like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which mauls and mangles as it goes, and no one can rescue. Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies, and all your foes will be destroyed.

December 17, 2017, Isaiah 9:1-7, “The Coming Messiah”

Lead: There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan.

Cong: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Lead: You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

Cong: For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

Lead: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Together: Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.



Responsive Readings

December 24, 2017, Matthew 2:1-11, "The Magi Visit the Messiah"

Lead: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Cong: When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Lead: "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Cong: Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

Lead: After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Together: On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

December 31, 2017, Isaiah 40:1-9, "Good News for God's People"

Lead: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

Cong: A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

Lead: And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Cong: A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them.

Lead: Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever. "You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

Together: You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift your voice with a shout lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"



Vernon Park *Church of God*

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 3, 2017

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 10, 2017

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 17, 2017

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 24, 2017

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 31, 2017





Souvenir Journal



There's still time to get your ad into the Souvenir Journal ... a collector's item that will commemorate the opening of our new main sanctuary.

Full Page Color - \$250 Full Page Black & White - \$200

Half Page Color - \$175 Half Page Black & White - \$125

Quarter Page Black & White - \$75 Patron - \$25

For more information, contact the church office at 708.753.1975

