

REFLECTIONS

Is it a small thing in your eyes to be loved by God – to be the son, the spouse, the love, the delight of the King of glory? Christian, believe this, and think about it: you will be eternally embraced in the arms of the love which was from everlasting, and will extend to everlasting – of the love which brought the Son of God's love from heaven to earth, from earth to the cross, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to glory – that love which was weary, hungry, tempted, scorned, scourged, buffeted, spat upon, crucified, pierced – which fasted, prayed, taught, healed, wept, sweated, bled, died. That love will eternally embrace you.

Richard Baxter

The love of God to us, and our love to Him, work together for producing holiness. Terror accomplishes no real obedience. Suspense brings forth no fruit unto holiness. No gloomy uncertainty as to God's favor can subdue one lust, or correct our crookedness of will. But the free pardon of the cross uproots sin, and withers all its branches. Only the certainty of love, forgiving love, can do this.

Horatius Bonar

If God's people are to worship Him in spirit and in truth – and they are – then we must look to Scripture both to form and inform our worship style. By using the ordinary means of grace God has given us, worship gives the opportunity to preach the Word, sing the Word, pray the Word, and read the Word. True worship is Christ-centered and Word-centered.

To the Young Pastor
Tabletalk Magazine

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

T U S C A L O O S A , A L A B A M A

April 11, 2021 • 8:30 & 11:00 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Second Sunday of Easter

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton
Lorrie Pate, piano

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
Linda Graham, piano

WELCOME

Program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.

PRELUDE

Please use this time for prayer and meditation as we prepare to go before the living God in worship.

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 66

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise! Say to God,

**All: “How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
All the earth worships you and sings praises to you;
they sing praises to your name.”**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 64 “God, the Lord, a King Remaineth”

God, the Lord, a King remaineth, robed in his own glorious light;
God hath robed him and he reigneth; he hath girded him with might.
Alleluia! Alleluia! God is King in depth and height.

In her everlasting station earth is poised, to swerve no more:
thou hast laid thy throne’s foundation from all time where thought can soar.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord, thou art forevermore.

Lord, the water-floods have lifted, ocean floods have lift their roar;
now they pause where they have drifted, now they burst upon the shore.
Alleluia! Alleluia! For the ocean’s sounding store.

With all tones of waters blending, glorious is the breaking deep;
glorious, beauteous without ending, God who reigns on heav’ns high steep.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Songs of ocean never sleep.

Lord, the words thy lips are telling are the perfect verity:
of thine high eternal dwelling holiness shall inmate be,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Pure is all that lives with thee.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

CONFESSION

SCRIPTURE READING: *Psalms 103*

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! ²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, ³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, ⁴who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, ⁵who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. ⁷He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. ⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. ¹³As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. ¹⁵As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; ¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. ¹⁷But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. ¹⁹The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. ²⁰Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! ²¹Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! ²²Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN: *based on a Puritan prayer*

Blessed Spirit, author of all grace and comfort, come, work repentance in my soul. Represent sin to me in its vile colors that I may hate it. Melt my heart by the majesty and mercy of God. Show me my ruined self and the help there is in him. Teach me to see my Savior, his ability to save, his arms outstretched, his heart big for me. May I trust in his power and love, commit my soul to him without reserve, bear his image, observe his laws, pursue his service, and be through time and eternity a monument to the efficacy of his grace, a trophy of his victory. Make me willing to be saved in his way, perceiving nothing in myself, but all in Jesus. In his name I pray, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Titus 3:4-7*

Pastor: When the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. You are saved because God the Father is loving and good. Your sins are forgiven because Jesus gave his life for you. You are washed because the Holy Spirit regenerated and renewed you. Through the work of the Trinity, you are forgiven and justified by grace. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss - the Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life - I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart - His wounds have paid my ransom.

Words and music by Stuart Townend
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COMMITMENT

OFFERING

**Tithes and offerings will be collected by deacons following the morning service as congregants leave the sanctuary.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

RESPONSE: "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 341 “O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping through Us”

○ Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and pow’r;
○ Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.

○ Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore, for this we plead.

○ Breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.

○ Heart of Christ, once broken for us,
‘tis where we find our strength and rest;
our broken, contrite hearts now solace,
and let your waiting church be blest.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.

HYMN: 699 “Like a River Glorious”

Like a river glorious is God’s perfect peace,
 over all victorious in its bright increase;
 perfect, yet it floweth fuller ev’ry day,
 perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.

Chorus:

Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest,
 finding, as he promised, perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow of his blessed hand,
 never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
 not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
 not a blast of hurry, touch the spirit there.

Ev’ry joy or trial falleth from above,
 traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.
 We may trust him fully all for us to do;
 they who trust him wholly find him wholly true.

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Pastor: With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth,
 made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—
 even when we fell into sin.

All: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Pastor: Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Riverwood Presbyterian uses wine in the celebration of Holy Communion. If you would prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take a cup from the inner circle of the tray.

BENEDICTION

HYMN: 125 “Let All Things Now Living”

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
His banners are o’er us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
‘til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

His law he enforces; the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit, obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
‘til all things now living unite in thanksgiving
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

BENEDICTION

DISMISSING HYMN: 263 “Lift High the Cross”

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Thy kingdom come, that earth’s despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

(Refrain)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 17 Phoebe Bell

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

FAREWELL TO ROBERT THORNTON

This morning we hosted a farewell reception for Robert Thornton during the Sunday School hour. If you were unable to attend, please be sure to greet Robert this morning and thank him for his years of service at Riverwood. He is moving to Orlando, FL this month.

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will meet tonight at 5:30pm.

SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, April 14 at 6:30pm for their monthly meeting.

WEDDING SHOWER

Join us next Sunday, April 18, at 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for a wedding shower celebrating the upcoming marriage of Gracen Miller & Eli Bell. Gracen & Eli will be moving shortly after the wedding, so gift cards are preferred.

HELP SEND A CHILD TO RIDGE HAVEN CAMP

We have 10 children going to Ridge Haven Camp this summer. Ridge Haven is operated by the PCA in Brevard, NC. The children will experience the adventures and joys of camp in a safe and loving environment. Campers play fun games, learn more about the gospel of Jesus Christ, and build relationships with intentional counselors and cabin mates. To donate any amount, please write "R. H. Camper" in the memo line of your check. If you have any questions, please contact Joann Williams (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 2021

Operating Income:	\$100,723.48
Operating Expense*:	\$102,640.39
Net Income:	(\$1,916.91)
Designated gifts:	\$6,498.00
Building loan balance:	\$692,979.19

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*