

REFLECTIONS

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can and as long as you can.

John Wesley

God gives gifts and distributes gifts so that He might receive glory in the universe (Eph. 4:10) through things like: His will accomplished through us, His people ministered to through us, and the mere fact that His people are not selfish, but they serve, and they are not useless, but they are equipped. Therefore, when we refuse to use our spiritual gifts, the body of Christ suffers and God does not receive the glory He deserves. On a cosmic level, any believer not using his or her gifts is a problem of God-sized proportions.

Randy Smith

If, by doing some work which the undiscerning consider “not spiritual work,” I can best help others, and I inwardly rebel, thinking it is the spiritual for which I crave, when in truth it is the interesting and the exciting, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

Amy Carmichael

The idea that the service to God should have only to do with a church altar, singing, reading, sacrifice, and the like is without doubt but the worst trick of the devil. How could the devil have led us more effectively astray than by the narrow conception that service to God takes place only in church and by works done therein... The whole world could abound with services to the Lord...not only in churches but also in the home, kitchen, workshop, field.

Martin Luther

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

April 25, 2021 • 8:30 & 11:00 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Jimmy Hopper
David Bedsole, 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: *from 1 Chronicles 16*

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!

**All: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth...**

Pastor: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."

**All: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Pastor: Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord,
before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 101 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

Come, thou Almighty King,
help us thy name to sing,
help us to praise.
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three
eternal praises be,
hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.

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: *Proverbs 19:15-24*

¹⁵Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger. ¹⁶Whoever keeps the commandment keeps his life; he who despises his ways will die. ¹⁷Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed. ¹⁸Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death. ¹⁹A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again. ²⁰Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. ²¹Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. ²²What is desired in a man is steadfast love, and a poor man is better than a liar. ²³The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm. ²⁴The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Gracious Father, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We confess that we have neglected to hear your wisdom and follow your ways. Please forgive us for our laziness. You have blessed us with gifts and abilities that could be used to glorify you and bless others but we choose to be idle. Have mercy on us. Please forgive us for diverting our eyes from the suffering and needs of others though you have given us so much to share. Holy Spirit, open our ears to hear your Word and open our eyes to see the needs of the world around us. Equip us with gifts and abilities that can be used to bless others as we serve in Christ's name and for the glory of our triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 2 Corinthians 8 & 1 Peter 3*

Pastor: Lift your heads and hear words of life and peace. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

All: **Jesus Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.**

Pastor: Through the generosity and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, he gave his life for yours. By his death your sins are forgiven. The peace of God be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 528 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine:
now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
O, let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart, strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll,
blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul.

COMMITMENT

OFFERING

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Heidelberg Catechism, Question and Answer #1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

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: 597 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship and are freed.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *2 Thessalonians 3:6-15*

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,
All: but the word of our God will stand forever.

SERMON: “Righteousness Works, part 1”

Rev. Jeff Pate

I. Paul was addressing cultural and theological issues in the Thessalonian church.

Acts 17

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

II. The gospel challenges cultural ideals with theological realities.

“traditions you received from us”

Ephesians 2 and new life in Christ

III. These theological realities still apply to the church today.

Followers of Jesus Christ have...

-this mind (Philippians 2)

-this command (John 13)

“Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?”

“Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?”

IV. What does this mean for me?

The offer of new life

The expression of new life

COMMUNION

HYMN: “Jesus, Strong and Kind”

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.

Chorus:

For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross. He will come to me.

Words and music by Colin Buchanan, Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, & Rich Thompson
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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.

HYMN: 12 “Exalt the Lord, His Praise Proclaim”

Exalt the Lord, his praise proclaim;
all ye his servants, praise his name,
who in the Lord’s house ever stand
and humbly serve at his command.
The Lord is good, his praise proclaim;
since it is pleasant, praise his name;
his people for his own he takes
and his peculiar treasure makes.

I know the Lord is high in state,
above all gods our Lord is great;
the Lord performs what he decrees,
in heav’n and earth, in depths and seas.
He makes the vapors to ascend
in clouds from earth’s remotest end;
the lightnings flash at his command;
he holds the tempest in his hand.

Exalt the Lord, his praise proclaim;
all ye his servants, praise his name,
who in the Lord’s house ever stand
and humbly serve at his command.
Forever praise and bless his name,
and in the church his praise proclaim;
in Zion is his dwelling place;
praise ye the Lord, show forth his grace.

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 26 Amelia Tulipan
April 27 Olivia Staggs
May 1 Calvin Kim

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

This morning, the adult Sunday School class that meets in the Fellowship Hall began a study of the book of Revelation.

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

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

CARDS FOR NELLE DOUGLAS

Nelle Douglas is going through a difficult time with health issues and mild dementia. At this time, they are requesting no visits or meals, but she would appreciate some cards that are cheerful, fun, uplifting, or even musical! Her address is 2025 Fox Ridge Rd, 35406.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 31-June 5: Ridge Haven Camp
July 6-9: Vacation Bible School
July 24: Family Fun Day at Lake Lurleen

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*