

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 5, 2020 • 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Palm Sunday

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton
Joann Williams, piano

REFLECTIONS:

Our prayers for the evangelization of the world are but a bitter irony so long as we only give of our superfluity and draw back before the sacrifice of ourselves.

Amy Carmichael

Anyone who has seen himself as the man lying in the road, as spiritually poor, will then live a life of generosity toward the outcast and the needy.

Timothy J. Keller
from *Ministries of Mercy*

Mammon is a genuine rival to God. The recurring biblical demand confronts us: “You shall not worship the work of your hands.” Jesus challenged his hearers to choose one master or another—God or Mammon. Either we will serve God and use money or we serve money and use God. Ultimately we follow what we have loved most intensely to its natural destination—eternity or death— “for where your treasure is, there will your heart be too.”

Os Guinness
from *The Call*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 118 & John 12*

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

Pastor: With the crowd that gathered in Jerusalem taking branches of palm trees
and going out to meet Jesus, we cry out,

**All: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
even the King of Israel!”**

Pastor: The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

**All: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; You are my God;
I will extol you.**

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!
Come, let us worship.

1. All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!

2. The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present:
to thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

3. Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

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.*

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Timothy 6:3-16

³If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we confess to you our misplaced trust and our selfish desires. You have commanded us to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, and love, but we often chase after personal wealth and worldly pleasure. Please have mercy on us. Help us to take hold of the eternal life our Savior has secured for us and then experience the great gain of godliness with contentment. We know that the righteousness that will deliver us is the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which you graciously offer and we receive by faith. We marvel at your benevolence. Help us now to be generous toward you and others. In Christ's name, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Matthew 11:28-29*

Pastor: The good news is that God has sent a Redeemer, the Savior, Jesus Christ, who delivers us from our sin. Jesus bids you to come to him to find rest for your souls as he declared, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Through faith in Jesus you are forgiven. Rest in his grace.

HYMN: "Are You Weary, Are You Languid"

1. Are you weary, are you languid, are you sore distress'd?
"Come to me," says One, "and, coming, be at rest."
Has he marks to lead me to him, if he be my Guide?
"In his feet and hands are wound-prints, and his side."

Chorus:

Finding, foll'wing, keeping, struggling, is he sure to bless?
"Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs answer yes!"

2. Is there diadem, as Monarch, that his brow adorns?
"Yes, a crown, in very surety, but of thorns."
If I find him, if I follow, what his promise here?
"Many a sorrow, many a labor, many a tear."

(Chorus)

3. If I still hold closely to him, what has he at last?
"Sorrow vanquished, labor ended, Jordan passed."
If I ask him to receive me, will he say me nay?
"Not till earth and not till heaven pass away."

(Chorus)

OFFERING:

**Remember to worship through the giving of tithes and offerings using the link to online giving or sending checks to the church's mailing address.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions & Answers 22-24, 26

Leader: How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

People: **Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.**

Leader: What offices does Christ execute as our redeemer?

People: **Christ, as our redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.**

Leader: How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

People: **Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.**

Leader: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

People: **Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.**

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 597 "Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire"

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 5:14-19*

¹⁴Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. ¹⁵The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. ¹⁶I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. ¹⁷Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. ¹⁸Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. ¹⁹Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

SERMON: “The Generous Governor & the Magnanimous King”

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 86 “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

1. The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want; he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, e’en for his own name’s sake;
within the paths of righteousness, e’en for his own name’s sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou has furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me:
and in God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be;
and in God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

April 7 April Henry
April 7 Tina Jones
April 9 Wayne Bell
April 9 Chris Kidder

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 40:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

30 DAYS OF PRAYER

During the month of April, please consider participating in our denomination's 30 Days of Prayer. A prayer guide can be found online at pcga.org/prayer/.

ONLINE GIVING

Please maintain your financial support of our church while we are unable to worship together in person. In order for you to worship through the giving of tithes and offerings, you may give to Riverwood online through the link on the church website. Please note:

1. You may give directly from your bank account or by credit card. There is no charge for bank account donations. The credit card option will charge Riverwood a 2.5-3.5% processing fee.
2. Donations are tax-deductible, and you will receive a giving statement directly from the PCA Foundation. Online donations will not appear on your year-end giving statement from Riverwood.
3. There is an optional place to leave a "note." You may use this box as you would the memo line of a check if you need to designate giving (deacon's fund, specific missionary, etc.).

You may also mail a check to the church (501 Rice Valley Rd. North, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406). If you have any questions, please email Sarah Vander Wal (secretary@riverwoodchurch.org).

PIER GROUPS

Pier group leaders will be contacting their group members soon with options for moving forward with their studies.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Please let your Shepherding Elder or Jeff (jpate@riverwoodchurch.org) know if you have any needs the church can assist with.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Over the coming weeks, communing members of Riverwood will have the opportunity to submit names of individuals to potentially serve as church officers. Prior to nominating someone to the officer of Ruling Elder or Deacon, take time to reflect on the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and prayerfully consider if that person is a good candidate. Also, please share with the individual your desire to nominate him and ask if he would be willing to participate in the training and examination process that would follow this nomination.