

REFLECTIONS

Now we have received from God nothing but love and favor, for Christ has pledged and given us his righteousness and everything he has; he has poured out upon us all his treasures, which no man can measure and no angel can understand or fathom, for God is a glowing furnace of love, reaching even from the earth to the heavens.

Martin Luther

Do not see the Father as one who is angry, but as one who is most kind and gentle. Let us see the Father as one who from eternity has always had kind thoughts towards us. The Father loses the company of his people because they are so ignorant of his love to them. His saints keep thinking only of his terrible majesty, severity and greatness, and so their hearts are not drawn to him in love. We must learn to think of his everlasting gentleness and compassion. Let our hearts and thoughts be filled with his love to us, even though many discouragements may lie in our way.

John Owen (1612-1683)
Puritan Theologian

Is it shocking to think of God as a pursuing lover? Then Christianity is shocking.

Joy Davidman

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

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

August 15, 2021 • 11:00 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin

Joann Williams & Noah Parker, 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 117*

Pastor: Praise the Lord, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!

**All: For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 97 “We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator”

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
through life's storm and tempest our Guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, escape you will make us,
and with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,
to you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

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: *1 John 3:11-18*

¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹²We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

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

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Almighty God, our Creator and Redeemer, we gather here today as people who have sinned against you in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. From the beginning, you have called us to love one another but our failures to love are too many to count. We confess our sin and look to your tender mercy. We have no merit; let the merit of Jesus stand for us. We are full of sin but you are full of grace. Please forgive us. (Pause)

Holy Spirit, use your inspired Word to remind me of Jesus's love and then change me to be more like him, loving others as he loved me. Break up the stony pride in my heart and give me sincere love for you and for others. Help me to love not only in word or talk but in deed and in truth. I ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 John 4:7-10*

Pastor: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. By God's grace, through faith Jesus Christ, your sins have been atoned for and you are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: “Before the Throne of God Above”

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 Heav’n 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.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of Glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood!

My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Savior and my God, with Christ my Savior and my God.

Words by Charitie Bancroft; Music by Vikki Cook

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COMMITMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Nicene Creed*

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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”

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

O 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.

O 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.

O 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.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Psalms 118:1-4*

¹Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

³Let the house of Aaron say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

⁴Let those who fear the Lord say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

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

SERMON: “Love, from Beginning to...” Rev. Jeff Pate

I. God's steadfast love displays his goodness resulting in thanks-filled praise from His people.

God's love is...

II. Knowing God's steadfast love changes our perspective on every situation.

vs.5-9

vs.10-16

vs.17,18

III. The psalmist rejoiced because of what he knew of God's enduring love, but we know more.

vs.19,20

vs.21,22

vs.23-26

v.27

vs.28,29

COMMUNION

HYMN: 188 “Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting” st. 1-2

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of thy loving heart.
Thou has bid me gaze upon thee, as thy beauty fills my soul,
for by thy transforming power, thou hast made me whole.

Chorus:

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of thy loving heart.

O how great thy loving-kindness, vaster, broader than the sea!
O how marvelous thy goodness lavished all on me!
Yes, I rest in thee, Beloved, know what wealth of grace is thine,
know thy certainty of promise and have made it mine.

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Pastor: With these words our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return in glory.

All: **In this supper God declares to us that our sins are completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the cross once for all.**

Pastor: He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who is bodily now in heaven at the right hand of the Father.

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: 188 “Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting” st. 1-3

Simply trusting thee, Lord Jesus, I behold thee as thou art,
and thy love, so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;
satisfies its deepest longings, meets, supplies its ev’ry need,
compasseth me round with blessings: thine is love indeed.

Chorus:

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of thy loving heart.

Ever lift thy face upon me as I work and wait for thee;
resting ‘neath thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth’s dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father’s glory, sunshine of my Father’s face,
keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with thy 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 BIRTHDAYS

August 17 Evelyn Gill
August 20 Peter Bell
August 20 Victoria Bell
August 20 Bruce Brown

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

COVENANT KIDS RESUMES

Covenant Kids Club resumes tonight from 5:00-7:00 with a Pool Party & Cookout for parents and children at the Staggs home. Parents, check your email for more information.

YOUTH GROUP

Riverwood Sunday night Youth Group will start back on August 22 when we will begin our study "With Jesus in the Upper Room."

COLLEGE LUNCHEON

All college students are invited to stick around after worship on August 29 for food, fellowship, and an opportunity to find out a little bit more about Riverwood. Invite a friend and bring your appetite!

FALL SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Beginning September 5, our fall Sunday schedule will begin with **Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.** followed by **corporate worship at 10:30**. Covenant Kids and Youth Group will meet from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 2021

Operating Income:	\$251,430.93
Operating Expense*:	\$279,168.71
Net Income:	(\$27,737.78)
Designated gifts:	\$54,333.00
Building loan balance:	\$671,189.02

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*