

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 16, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin
Dr. Linda Graham, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
Ginny Coleman, piano

REFLECTIONS:

For when we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything.

G. K. Chesterton

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation.

C. S. Lewis
from *Reflections on the Psalms*

If our cultural work is going to be restorative—if it is going to put the world to rights—then we need imaginations that have been shaped by a vision for how things ought to be. Our innovation and invention and creativity will need to be bathed in an eschatological vision of what the world is made for, what it's called to be—which the prophets often described as shalom. Innovation for justice and shalom requires that we be regularly immersed in the story of God reconciling all things to himself. That immersion happens most powerfully in worship—in intentional, historic, liturgical forms that 'carry' the Christian story in ways that sink into our bones and become part of us.

James K. A. Smith

Worship flows from love. Where love is meager, worship will be scant. Where love is deep, worship will overflow.

Oswald Chambers

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 145*

Pastor: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

All: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Pastor: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All: The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Pastor: The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

All: The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Pastor: Let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 4 “All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

All praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of wonders, pow’r, and love, the God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul he fills, the God who every sorrow stills.
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty pow’r hath made his gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning dawn or evening shade his watchful eye ne’er sleepeth;
within the kingdom of his might, lo, all is just and all is right.
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, O hear my calling!
For death he gave me life indeed and kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be; O thank him, thank our God with me.
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord forsaketh not his flock, his chosen generation;
he is their refuge and their rock, their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother’s tender hand he leads his own, his chosen band.
To God all praise and glory!

Ye who confess Christ’s holy name, to God give praise and glory!
Ye who the Father’s pow’r proclaim, to God give praise and glory!
All idols underfoot be trod, the Lord is God! The Lord is God!
To God all praise and glory!

Then come before his presence now and banish fear and sadness;
to your Redeemer pay your vow and sing with joy and gladness:
Though great distress my soul befell, the Lord, my God, did all things well.
To God all praise and glory!

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: John 4:16-26

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

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

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Eternal God, you do not change. You have revealed yourself to us in your Word and in the Son you love. You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth. But we confess that we often worship who we wish you to be, not who you truly are. Too many times we ask you to bless what we do rather than seeking to do what you bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want instead of shaping us into what you want. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Help us to meet you here, that we might bow before your unspeakable majesty and so live for you now and ever, in Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Micah 7*

- Pastor: With eyes on our God who redeems us, with the prophet Micah we joyfully proclaim,
“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant
of his inheritance?”
- All: God delights to show steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread
our iniquities underfoot. He will cast our sins into the depths of the sea.
- Pastor: God showed his compassion for you by offering his own Son, Jesus Christ, to die for your
sins. In doing so, he tread your iniquities under the foot of his justice, cast your sins into
the depth of the sea and you are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.
- All: And also with you.

HYMN: “O Church, Arise”

O church, arise, and put your armor on; hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away, and Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride; give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day when with Christ we stand in Glory.

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
©2005 Thankyou Music; CCLI license #11239744

OFFERING:

*Remember to worship through the giving of tithes and offerings. There are offering plates next to the exits for you to place your offering. You may also give online using the link on the church's website or send checks to the church's mailing address.

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: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 331 “Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit”

Come, O come, thou quick'ning Spirit, God from all eternity!
May the power never fail us; dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light banish all the gloom of night.

Grant our hearts in fullest measure wisdom, counsel, purity,
that we ever may be seeking only that which pleaseth thee.
Let thy knowledge spread and grow, working error's overthrow.

Show us, Lord, the path of blessing; when we trespass on our way,
cast, O Lord, our sins behind thee and be with us day by day.
Should we stray, O Lord, recall; work repentance when we fall.

Holy Spirit, strong and mighty, thou who makest all things new,
make thy work within us perfect and the evil foe subdue.
Grant us weapons for the strife and with vict'ry crown our life.

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 12:27-47

²⁷ And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. ²⁸ And the sons of the singers gathered together from the district surrounding Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; ²⁹ also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem. ³⁰ And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall. ³¹ Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks. One went to the south on the wall to the Dung Gate. ³² And after them went Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah, ³³ and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, ³⁴ Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah, ³⁵ and certain of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph; ³⁶ and his relatives, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them. ³⁷ At the Fountain Gate they went up straight before them by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east. ³⁸ The other choir of those who gave thanks went to the north, and I followed them with half of the people, on the wall, above the Tower of the Ovens, to the Broad Wall, ³⁹ and above the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Gate of Yeshanah, and by the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, to the Sheep Gate; and they came to a halt at the Gate of the Guard. ⁴⁰ So both choirs of those who gave thanks stood in the house of God, and I and half of the officials with me; ⁴¹ and the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; ⁴² and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang with Jezrahiah as their leader. ⁴³ And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away. ⁴⁴ On that day men were appointed over the storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered. ⁴⁵ And they performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon. ⁴⁶ For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. ⁴⁷ And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers; and they set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons of Aaron.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

All: **but the word of our God will stand forever.**

SERMON: "When a City Rejoiced"

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 420 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,
who has washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him whose love divine gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast, Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured, death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from the sky, pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;
death is conquered in the fight, thou has brought us life and light:
hymns of glory and of praise, risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father, praise to thee, with the Spirit, ever be.

THE SACRAMENT OF LORD'S SUPPER:

Pastor: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
All: **We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.**
Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.
All: **The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**
Pastor: Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.

HYMN: 286 “Worship Christ, the Risen King!”

Rise, O church, and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices; resurrection anthems swell.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

See the tomb where death had laid him, empty now, its mouth declares:
“Death and I could not contain him, for the throne of life he shares.”
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with pow'r;
all hell's minions may assemble, but cannot withstand this hour.
He has conquered, he has conquered, Christ the Lord, the risen King!

Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
but the truth proclaims a wonder thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
He is risen, he is risen, now receive the risen King!

We acclaim your life, O Jesus, now we sing your victory;
sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ, the risen King!

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)

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

August 20 Peter Bell
August 20 Victoria Bell
August 20 Bruce Brown

COVENANT KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will meet tonight from 6:30-7:30pm.

GIFT BASKET FOR THE GILLS

For the next three weeks, there will be a basket in the foyer for a “baby shower” for the Gills! Gift cards suggested, but gifts welcome as well.