

Most of the Scripture speaks to us, the Psalms speak for us.

St. Athanasius (296-373 AD)

God's law, as a rule of life, is not opposed to grace. Rather, used in the right sense, it is the handmaid of grace. Or, to use an analogy, it is like a sheepdog that keeps driving us back into the fold of grace, when we stray out into the wilderness of works.

Jerry Bridges

Transforming Grace

Prior to our faith in the pardoning grace of the cross, the law ultimately could only be a condemnation code specifying the reasons for our death penalty. Now that Christ has paid that penalty, however, the Law is a map of blessing showing how those God has made right with Himself can further experience His love, bring honor to the One they love, and share His love with others. Understanding that the Law no longer condemns but guides us to spiritual safety, worship and fellowship makes its standards a delight, and indicates why antinomianism shackles God's people to unhappiness. Denying people access to God's path of spiritual safety is a contradiction of grace.

Bryan Chapell

Holiness by Grace

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

August 22, 2021 • 11:00 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin

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 Psalm 18*

Pastor: I love you, O Lord, my strength.

**All: The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield,
and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

Pastor: Call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised!

**All: For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations,
and sing to your name.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 7 "From All That Dwell below the Skies"

From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise;
let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song;
to every land the strains belong.
In cheerful sound all voices raise
and fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord;
eternal truth attends your word.
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more.

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: *Matthew 5:1-11*

¹Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

God of all grace, we have heard the words of Jesus, the Word made flesh, and we bow before you with penitent hearts. Your Son declared that a truly blessed life comes to those who are humble and meek, who grieve over sin and hunger for righteousness. We confess that we are regularly proud, often sin willfully and crave the things of this world. Please forgive us. Have mercy on us when we cause strife instead of making peace and fear persecution more than we love you. We are dependent on your mercy and rest in your undeserved love. We are also weak and prone to wander. Holy Spirit, help us to love Christ who first loved us and then empower us to gladly follow Him. We ask this all in the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:

Pastor: Now, hear the good news! If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

All: For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Pastor: By faith in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and you have been reconciled to God. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: “Yet Not I, but through Christ in Me”

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer,
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: “All is mine!”
yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
for by my side, the Savior he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me,
through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome,
yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.
The future sure, the price it has been paid,
for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
and he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: “I am free!”
yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me,
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
All the glory ever more to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
“Yet not I but through Christ in me!”

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: *The Heidelberg Catechism* #88, 89, 90, 114, 115

Leader: What is true repentance or the conversion of man?

People: **It is the dying of the old nature and the coming to life of the new.**

Leader: What is the dying of the old nature?

People: **It is to grieve with heartfelt sorrow that we have offended God by our sin, and more and more to hate it and flee from it.**

Leader: What is the coming to life of the new nature?

People: **It is a heartfelt joy in God through Christ, and a love and delight to live according to the will of God in all good works.**

Leader: But can those converted to God keep His commandments perfectly?

People: **No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience. Nevertheless, with earnest purpose they do begin to live not only according to some but to all the commandments of God.**

Leader: If in this life no one can keep the ten commandments perfectly, why does God have them preached so strictly?

People: **First, so that throughout our life we may more and more become aware of our sinful nature, and therefore seek more eagerly the forgiveness of sins and righteousness in Christ. Second, so that, while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, we may never stop striving to be renewed more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach the goal of perfection.**

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: 457 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, thou fount of ev’ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it,
mount of God’s unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I’m come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand’ring from the fold of God:
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I’m constrained to be;
let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wand’ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it –
prone to leave the God I love:
here’s my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Psalms 119:1-8*

- ¹Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!
- ²Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
- ³who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!
- ⁴You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
- ⁵Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
- ⁶Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
- ⁷I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.
- ⁸I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me!

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

SERMON: “The Word that Provides: Blessedness”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 154 “Thou Art the Way”

Thou art the Way: to thee alone from sin and death we flee;
and he who would the Father seek must seek him, Lord, by thee.

Thou art the Truth: thy Word alone true wisdom can impart;
thou only canst inform the mind, and purify the heart.

Thou art the Life: the rending tomb proclaims thy conquering arm,
and those who put their trust in thee nor death nor hell shall harm.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: grant us that Way to know,
that Truth to keep, that Life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

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: 668 “Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode”

Who trusts in God, a strong abode in heav'n and earth possesses;
who looks in love to Christ above, no fear his heart oppresses.
In you alone, dear Lord, we own sweet hope and consolation:
our shield from foes, our balm for woes, our great and sure salvation.

Though Satan's wrath beset our path, and worldly scorn assail us,
while you are near we will not fear, your strength shall never fail us:
your rod and staff shall keep us safe, and guide our steps forever;
nor shades of death, nor hell beneath, our souls from you shall sever.

In all the strife of mortal life our feet shall stand securely;
temptation's hour shall lose its pow'r, for you shall guard us surely.
O God, renew, with heav'nly dew, our body, soul, and spirit,
until we stand at your right hand, through Jesus' saving merit.

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 28 Caleb Drinkard

August 28 Isaac Tuttle

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

SUNDAY SCHOOL - DISCUSSION CLASS

The adult discussion Sunday School class began this morning in the Administration building conference room. We are studying the book, Does Grace Grow Best in Winter? by Ligon Duncan.

YOUTH GROUP & COVENANT KIDS CLUB

Youth Group and Covenant Kids Club meet tonight from 5:30-7:00pm. The Youth will begin a study called "With Jesus in the Upper Room."

DEACON'S FUND OFFERING

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our Deacons have an offering to replenish funds in an account used exclusively for mercy ministry needs. This fund has enabled our Diaconate to extend the kingdom of God to many within our community. Next Sunday, August 29, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLLEGE LUNCHEON

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

CATECHISM

Catechism resumes Wednesday, September 1 from 3:30-5:00pm. It is for children 5-12 years of age. We will be covering the Ten Commandments this year. If you have any questions, please contact Joann (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, September 4: Men's "Meat and Greet"

Saturday, September 11: Women's Brunch

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*