

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 23, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin
Lorrie Pate, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
Dr. Linda Graham, piano

REFLECTIONS:

...insofar as the church is conformed to the world, and the two communities appear to the onlooker to be merely two versions of the same thing, the church is contradicting its true identity.

John Stott

Peter's declaration of our 'peoplehood' in Christ has vast consequences for the life of the church of Christ. The church is not just a religious association formed by saved individuals to give united expression to their faith...Church fellowship is not an optional advantage, to be chosen or ignored, like membership in a social club. It is the calling of every Christian. There is a spiritual 'ethnicity' to the church of Christ; Christians are blood relatives, joined by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Ed Clowney

What you do emerges from who you are. Being precedes doing. At the core of our Christian witness in the world lies the reality of who each of us is in relation to God Himself and in relationship to one another in the new society of God's people—the church.

Charles Colson

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Hebrews 12 & Revelation 4*

Pastor: Church of Jesus Christ, as we gather to worship in His name,
you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

All: We come to the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering.

Pastor: And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings,
are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

All: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Pastor: And you come to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant...

**All: Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,
and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,
for our God is a consuming fire.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 100 "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

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: Matthew 7:1-6

¹"Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. ⁶Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you."

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

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we come today singing of your holiness and confessing our sinfulness. We admit that we often excuse sin in our lives while condemning it in the lives of others. We rush to judgement without considering how often we sin in a similar or an even more grievous way. We condemn ourselves when we accuse others of motives that fester in our own hearts. Please forgive us. Lord Jesus, your words challenge us to discipline ourselves as we lovingly discipline one another within the church. Help us through your Spirit. Your Word is holy and your people are holy. Keep us from trampling on either. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Acts 4:10-12*

Pastor: Hear the gospel message. Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who was crucified, God raised from the dead. This Jesus, the stone the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Through faith in Jesus, your sins are forgiven and your salvation is secured. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: "In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine - bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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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:

The Heidelberg Catechism, Questions & Answers 54, 55, and 56

Leader: What do you believe concerning “the holy catholic church”?

People: I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

Leader: What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?

People: First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

Leader: What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins”?

People: I believe that God, because of Christ’s satisfaction, will no longer remember any of my sins or my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather, by grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 145 “The Spirit Breathes upon the Word”

The Spirit breathes upon the Word, and brings the truth to sight;
precepts and promises afford a sanctifying light,
a sanctifying light.

A glory gilds the sacred page, majestic, like the sun:
it gives a light to every age; it gives, but borrows none,
it gives, but borrows none.

The Hand that gave it still supplies the gracious light and heat:
his truths upon the nations rise; they rise, but never set,
they rise, but never set.

Let everlasting thanks be thine for such a bright display
as makes a world of darkness shine with beams of heav’nly day,
with beams of heav’nly day.

My soul rejoices to pursue the steps of him I love,
till glory breaks upon my view in brighter worlds above,
in brighter worlds above.

SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 13:1-3*

¹On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people. And in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, ²for they did not meet the people of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. ³As soon as the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

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

SERMON: "Identity Crisis"

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 347 "The Church's One Foundation" st. 1, 2, 6

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word:
from heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes on holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

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: 353 "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God: her walls before thee stand,
dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.

Jesus, thou Friend divine, our Savior and our King,
thy hand from ev'ry snare and foe shall great deliv'rance bring.

Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be giv'n
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heav'n.

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 28 Caleb Drinkard

August 29 Michelle Moss

August 29 Lynn Tootle

COVENANT KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

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

GIFT BASKETS

There are two gift baskets in the foyer. One is a "wedding shower" for Jacob and Terrie Bell who were married last month. The other is "baby shower" for the Gills to welcome Evelyn Ruth! Gift cards suggested, but gifts welcome as well.