

Do you feel more loved when God makes much of you or do you feel more loved when God at the cost of His Son allows you to make much of Him?

John Piper

We need to discover all over again that worship is natural to the Christian, as it was to the godly Israelites who wrote the psalms, and that the habit of celebrating the greatness and graciousness of God yields an endless flow of thankfulness, joy, and zeal.

J. I. Packer

To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer.

Martin Luther

O what a blessing is Sunday, interposed between the waves of worldly business like the divine path of the Israelites through the sea! There is nothing in which I would advise you to be more strictly conscientious than in keeping the Sabbath day holy. I can truly declare that to me the Sabbath has been invaluable.

William Wilberforce

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 7, 2021 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

8:30am

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

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
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 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.

HYMN: 103 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you;
all on earth your scepter claim,
all in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
everlasting is your reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord."

Lo! the apostolic train
join your sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun,
through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name you;
while in essence only One,
undivided God we claim you,
and adoring bend the knee,
while we sing this mystery.

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 Chronicles 16:23-31*

²³Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. ²⁴Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! ²⁵For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods. ²⁶For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens. ²⁷Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place. ²⁸Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! ²⁹Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; ³⁰tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. ³¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"

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

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we bow before you confessing our sins of silence. You are glorious; your deeds are marvelous, and you are worthy of our continual worship. Too often we have been silent when we should have sung and remained quiet when you deserved shouts of praise. Please forgive us. Heavenly Father, help us to see your glory and splendor today. Holy Spirit, sanctify us through your power and fortify our songs with humility and adoration. Take our eyes and our minds off of ourselves so that we can see Jesus in all his majesty and love. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Hebrews 10:12-17*

Pastor: Hear the good news of your salvation. When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

All: For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Pastor: And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying; “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

All: Where there is forgiveness for these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Pastor: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven and God remembers your sins no more. 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

OFFERING

**Tithes and offerings will be collected by deacons following the morning service as congregants leave the sanctuary.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

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: 377 “Jesus, Where'er Your People Meet”

Jesus, where-e'er your people meet,
there they behold your mercy seat;
where-e'er they seek you, you are found,
and ev'ry place is hallowed ground.

For you, within no walls confined,
are dwelling in the humble mind;
such ever bring you where they come,
and going, take you to their home.

Dear Shepherd of your chosen few,
your former mercies here renew;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of your saving name.

Here may we prove the pow'r of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heav'n before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but you are near;
nor short your arm, nor deaf your ear;
O rend the heav'ns, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts your own.

What is a high priest and what is ours like?

Therefore, let us... (vs. 22-25)

Draw near

Hold fast

Think carefully

Not this but that!

COMMUNION

HYMN: 469 “How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place”

How sweet and awesome is the place with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue, “Lord, why was I a guest?”

“Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there’s room,
when thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?”

‘Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God, constrain the earth to come;
send your victorious Word abroad, and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full, that all the chosen race
may, with one voice and heart and soul, sing your redeeming grace.

RESPONSIVE READING:

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.

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.

HYMN: 660 “O God beyond All Praising”

O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor
may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

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

February 7 Kay Kirkley
February 7 Olivia Patridge
February 8 Jacob Bell
February 13 Ceilidh Crawford
February 13 Wilson Pate

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kid's Club meets tonight from 5:30-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Youth will meet at the Powers house at 5:30pm for football, fellowship, and Bible study.

SESSION MEETING

The elders will meet this Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30pm for their monthly meeting.

PIER GROUPS

Pier Groups began last week, and we hope everyone will find a place to get plugged in. There are currently five groups you can sign up for. The leaders and details for those groups are as follows:

- Robert Thornton/Jimmy Hopper: Sundays on Zoom at 4:30pm. Sermon follow-up.
- Gene Martin: Sundays at 5:30 pm on Zoom. "Chosen by God" by R.C. Sproul
- John Kim: Sundays at 5:30 pm in RPC educational building.
"A House for My Name" by Peter Leithart
- Jeff Pate: Tuesdays at 6 pm at the Pates' house. Study of Genesis.
- Clay Staggs/Allen Powers: Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Staggs' house.
"Consequence of Ideas" by R.C. Sproul

You can find the sign up for Pier Groups on the church's website under the "forms and sign ups" tab. The leaders will then pass along any further information you may need.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 2021

Operating Income:	\$31,061.76
Operating Expense*:	\$30,259.27
Net Income:	\$802.49
Designated gifts:	\$1,721.00
Building loan balance:	\$703,641.70

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*