

REFLECTIONS

Trained faith is a triumphant gladness in having nothing but God - no rest, no foothold - nothing but Himself - A triumphant gladness in swinging out into that abyss, rejoicing in a very fresh emergency that is going to prove Him true - The Lord Alone - that is trained faith.

Lilias Trotter (1853-1928)
Artist and Missionary to Algeria

To the Son of God alone faith ought to look; on him it relies; in him it rests and terminates. If it proceed farther, it will disappear, and will no longer be faith, but a delusion. Let us remember, that true faith confines its view so entirely to Christ, that it neither knows, nor desires to know, anything else.

John Calvin

The purpose of regeneration is to make us spiritual people, those who live and walk by the Spirit. This life is a life of intimate communion with God in Christ...The new life comes from God and is born in his love.

Herman Bavinck

This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.

Martin Luther

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

First Sunday after the Epiphany

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton
Tindol Pate, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers
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 150*

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

**All: Praise God in his sanctuary;
Praise him in his mighty heavens!**

Pastor: Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his excellent greatness!

All: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 21 "Sing Praise to the Lord!"

Sing praise to the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, you angels of light.
You heavens, adore him by whom you were made,
and worship before him in brightness arrayed.

Sing praise to the Lord! Praise him on the earth
in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth.
Praise him who has brought you his grace from above;
praise him who has taught you to sing of his love.

Sing praise to the Lord! All things that give sound,
each jubilant chord, reecho around.
Loud organs, his glory tell forth in deep tone,
and trumpets, the story of what he has done.

Sing praise to the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along!
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, sing praise to the Lord!

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: *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we come affirming that you are holy and perfect in righteousness. We come declaring that you are just and that you rightly punish the wicked. So we come humbly, admitting our sin and our wickedness. We admit that we have not loved you with our whole heart or served you with all of our strength. Please have mercy on us. Our minds are easily focused on worldly and sinful desires and we covet what isn't ours. Our souls cling to idols of our own choosing as we think possessions and people can provide us with the peace, joy, and lasting hope that can only be found in you. Please forgive us. Give us faith to believe and trust you with all we have. By your Spirit's work in our hearts, help us to love you with all that we are. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Savior you sent out of love for us. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 2 Corinthians 5*

Pastor: The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

All: **If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself.**

Pastor: In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.

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 God's grace and through faith in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION

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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COMMITMENT

OFFERING

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

COMMITMENT

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Colossians 1:15-20*

Leader: What do you believe concerning Jesus Christ?

All: I believe that: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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: 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.

Isaiah's experience of God's holiness and our condition...

How "holy" does God intend us to be?

What is our hope of holiness?

The holiness of Jesus

The holiness of God

Progressive holiness and Christian liberty...

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!”

COMMUNION

RESPONSIVE READING: *Psalm 103:1-5; Revelation 5:12*

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**

Pastor: ...who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**All: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!**

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: 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.

(continued on the next page)

BENEDICTION

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!

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

January 10 Brenda Sheppard
January 12 Kathy Gilbert
January 14 Will Jones
January 15 James Tullidge

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW TIME FOR COVENANT KIDS CLUB

Covenant Kid's Club will resume tonight with a new time – 5:30 - 7:00pm.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will resume tonight at 5:30pm. All youth are welcome and encouraged to come and join in games, fellowship, singing, Bible study, and prayer.

CATECHISM RESUMES THIS WEEK

Children's catechism class meets this week Wednesday, January 13, from 3:30-4:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

SNACK/DRINK DONATIONS NEEDED

Can you help with individual snacks (not nuts) and/or individual drink pouches (e.g. capri suns, kool-aid) for Catechism and Covenant Kid's Club? We serve approximately 40 snacks each week between these two programs. Donations may be dropped off on Sunday in the sanctuary foyer or during the week in the church office.

SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, January 13, at 6:30pm for their monthly meeting.

PIER GROUPS

Pier Groups (small group Bible studies) will be starting back up in a few weeks. Keep an eye out for an upcoming announcement providing the when, what, and where for each group.

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Income:	\$408,719.97
Operating Expense*:	\$413,860.60
Net Income:	(\$5,140.63)
Designated gifts:	\$104,899.43
Building loan balance:	\$718,864.08

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*