

REFLECTIONS

Oh! it is not *my* remembering God, it is God's remembering *me* which is the ground of my safety; it is not *my* laying hold of His covenant, but His covenant's laying hold on me. Glory be to God! the whole of the bulwarks of salvation are secured by divine power, and even the minor towers, which we may imagine might have been left to man, are guarded by almighty strength...My looking to Jesus brings me joy and peace, but it is God's looking to Jesus which secures my salvation and that of all His elect, since it is impossible for our God to look at Christ, our bleeding Surety, and then to be angry with us for sins already punished in Him.

Charles H. Spurgeon

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

No church can spread the gospel with any degree of integrity, let alone credibility, unless it has been visibly changed by the gospel it preaches. We need to look like what we are talking about. It is not enough to receive the gospel and pass it on; we must embody it in our common life of faith, love, joy, peace, righteousness and hope.

John Stott

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
Joann Williams, 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: *Psalm 113*

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

**All: Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore!**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!

**All: The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!**

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 66 "God Is Known among His People"

God is known among his people, every mouth his praises fill;
from of old he has established his abode on Zion's hill;
there he broke the sword and arrow, bade the noise of war be still.

Excellent and glorious are you, with your trophies from the fray;
you have slain the mighty warriors, wrapped in sleep of death are they;
when your anger once is risen, who can stand in that dread day?

When from heav'n your sentence sounded, all the earth in fear was still,
while to save the meek and lowly God in judgment wrought his will;
e'en the wrath of man shall praise you, your designs it shall fulfil.

Vow and pay unto Jehovah, him your God forever own;
all men, bring your gifts before him, worship him, and him alone;
mighty kings obey and fear him, princes bow before his throne.

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: *Leviticus 20:22-26*

²²“You shall therefore keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. ²³And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested them. ²⁴But I have said to you, ‘You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.’ I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples. ²⁵You shall therefore separate the clean beast from the unclean, and the unclean bird from the clean. You shall not make yourselves detestable by beast or by bird or by anything with which the ground crawls, which I have set apart for you to hold unclean. ²⁶You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN: *based on Daniel 9*

All: O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, we are embarrassed to come before you, for we have preferred the ways of this world to your ways. We have rebelled against your wisdom and turned aside from your commands. To you belongs righteousness, O Lord, and to us open shame. O Lord, great God, all holy and most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love, incline your ear to our prayers. Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you. Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercy. Remember the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. It is in his name that we pray, for he is our Savior, the Keeper and Mediator of the covenant of grace. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 2 Timothy 1:9-10*

Pastor: *God saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. The peace of Christ be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

HYMN: “Across the Lands”

You're the Word of God the Father from before the world began:
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of Your voice,
Let the skies declare Your glory; let the land and seas rejoice.

Chorus:

You're the author of creation, You're the Lord of ev'ry man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Yet You left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of Heaven for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry, with a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered, that the guilty may go free.

With a shout You rose victorious, wresting vict'ry from the grave,
And ascended into Heaven, leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father, interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation You are leading sinners home.

COMMITMENT

OFFERING

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *from Philippians 2:6-11*

Leader: Whom do we worship as our Lord and King?

People: We worship Jesus Christ as our Lord and King, “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Edith and Eliza Kate Gill

COMMITMENT

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 597 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship and are freed.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *1 Peter 4:7-11*

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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

SERMON:

“End Game”

Rev. Jeff Pate

I. Christians view time through the telescope of redemptive history.

Life is short.

Christ's return is eminent.

Conversion occurs here, in this short life.

II. Peter offers four resources that are crucial for the church to continue as a distinct community residing in a fallen world.

1.

2.

3.

4.

III. Soli Deo Gloria!

HYMN: 427 "Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands"

Amidst us our Beloved stands,
and bids us view his pierced hands;
points to the wounded feet and side,
blest emblems of the Crucified.

What food luxurious loads the board,
when at his table sits the Lord!
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet,
when Jesus deigns the guests to meet!

If now, with eyes defiled and dim,
we see the signs, but see not him;
O may his love the scales displace,
and bid us see him face to face!

O glorious Bridegroom of our hearts,
your present smile a heav'n imparts!
O lift the veil, if veil there be,
let every saint your glory see!

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

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.

BENEDICTION

HYMN: 55 "To God Be the Glory"

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that we may go in.

Chorus:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

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

July 11 Clay Staggs
July 12 Hunter Sheppard
July 15 Joanie Norris
July 15 Nathan Staggs

SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, July 14 at 6:30pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

COVENANT KIDS MOVIE NIGHT

The children of Riverwood have requested a movie night. The Powers have offered to host the event. Therefore, Movie Night is ON this Friday, July 16 at 6:30pm! We have not decided on a movie, so suggestions are welcome. The movie selected will be appropriate for ALL AGES. If you have any questions or suggestions for movies, contact Joann Williams.

BACKPACKS FOR WINGS OF GRACE

As part of VBS and during the month of July, we will be collecting school supplies to be placed in backpacks in Covenant Kid's Club and distributed to children in the community through Wings of Grace. We are collecting pencils, pens, erasers, highlighters, glue sticks, scotch tape, crayons, colored pencils, kid scissors, pocket folders, 1 and 2 inch three-ring binders, and wide-ruled notebook paper. A box is in the Narthex to collect these supplies. If you have any questions, please contact Joann (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

TEACHERS AND AIDES NEEDED FOR CATECHISM

Catechism is scheduled to resume on Wednesday, August 18 from 3:30-5:00pm. The Catechism program is also utilized by RCS families. I am anticipating 30-40 children attending this fall. HELP IS NEEDED! Specifically, the program will need a minimum of 4 teachers and 4 teacher's aides. The plan is to divide the children into four groups for Bible lessons and memorization work. All teaching materials will be provided. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Joann.

TEACHERS FOR RCS

Riverwood Classical School is seeking teachers for the upcoming school year. Please be in prayer that God would raise up people passionate about helping students fulfill their God-given mandate to spread his glory to the ends of the earth. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Addison Canevaro (mrcanevaro@riverwoodclassical.org).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting following Morning Worship next Sunday, July 18, 2021, for the purpose of the election of officers. Dustin Sheppard was nominated to serve as a Ruling Elder and Marvin Skelton was nominated to serve as a Deacon. Both have completed officer training and have been examined and approved by the Session and will stand for election by the Congregation. Additionally, Steven Crawford has been on sabbatical and wishes to return to service as a Deacon, a position he previously held and in which he has been ordained to serve. Jeremy Jones, an ordained Deacon, also is returning to service. Both will be on the ballot for approval for service. Following the Congregational Meeting, there will be dinner on the grounds, a time of good food and fellowship.

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

After church next Sunday, July 18, plan to join your Riverwood family for dinner on the grounds. Each family is asked to bring a stand alone meal that is enough for your family plus extra for sharing. We encourage the use of coolers to keep things cold or hot as refrigerator space is very limited and too many crock pots blow our circuit breakers! The church will provide plates, cups, cutlery, napkins, and ice. Join us as we break bread together. **The Sunday School class that normally meets in the Fellowship Hall will meet in the Sanctuary next week.**

FAMILY FUN DAY AT LAKE LURLEEN

The Children's Ministry has reserved the Beach Pavilion at Lake Lurleen State Park next Saturday, July 24 beginning at 10:00am. This is a day for the Riverwood Family to enjoy. Bring your lunch, beach toys, swimsuit, hiking boots, water craft, fishing poles, etc. for a day of Fellowship and Fun. Come and go according to your schedule. Admission to the park is \$3 per adult, \$1 per senior or child. If you have any questions, please contact Joann.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2021

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Operating Income: | \$211,998.73 |
| Operating Expense*: | \$244,092.10 |
| Net Income: | (\$32,093.37) |
| Designated gifts: | \$46,608.00 |
| Building loan balance: | \$676,660.44 |

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*