

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 12, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Guest pastor: Dr. Thad James

8:30am

Joann Williams, piano

10:30am

Tindol Pate, piano

REFLECTIONS:

The validity and meaning of love rest upon the reality that love exists between the Father and Son in the Trinity. When I say I love, instead of this being a nonsense word, it has meaning. It is rooted in what has always been in the personal relationship existing in the Trinity before the universe was created. Man's love is not a product of chance that has no fulfillment in what has always been. Love is a thing not only of meaning but of beauty and wonder nourished in joy.

Francis Schaeffer
from *The God Who is There*

As soon as I say, 'God exists,' my existence no longer can remain in the center, because the essence of the knowledge of God reveals my own existence as deriving its total being from his. That is the true conversion experience. I no longer let the knowledge of my existence be the center from which I derive, project, deduct, or intuit the existence of God; I suddenly or slowly find my own existence revealed to me in and through the knowledge of God. Then it becomes real for me that I can love myself and my neighbor only because God has loved me first.

Henri Nouwen

God himself is the source of our bliss, he himself is the goal of all our striving...For we direct our course towards him with love so that in reaching him we may find our rest, and attain our happiness because we have achieved our fulfillment in him.

St. Augustine (354-430)

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for "In him we live and move and have our being," as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."

the Apostle Paul
at the Areopagus in Athens

CALL TO WORSHIP: from Romans 11 & Psalm 95

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

People: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Leader: He is our God and we are His people, the sheep of his hand. Come, let us worship him!

Come, Christians, join to sing *Alleluia! Amen!*
loud praise to Christ our King; *Alleluia! Amen!*
let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice. *Alleluia! Amen!*

Come, lift your hearts on high, *Alleluia! Amen!*
let praises fill the sky; *Alleluia! Amen!*
he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end. *Alleluia! Amen!*

Praise yet our Christ again, *Alleluia! Amen!*
life shall not end the strain; *Alleluia! Amen!*
on heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore, "*Alleluia! Amen!*"

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: Luke 10:25-37

²⁵And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." ²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

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

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved our neighbor, known and unknown. Despite your commandment, we have not loved our enemy. In doing so, we have not loved you, certainly not with our whole heart. Now, as we repent, as we consider our lack of love, we are staggered by our disobedience. Humble us. Teach us of the depth of our sin. Work in us through your Spirit sorrow for our sins and true repentance in our hearts. Have mercy on us and forgive us through your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. Cause us again to delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Joel 2:12-13*

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.”

Pastor: The Lord is near to us. He has forgiven His chosen people.
May the peace of God be with you forever.

People: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 675 “Only Trust Him”

Come, ev'ry soul by sin oppressed, there's mercy with the Lord,
and he will surely give you rest, by trusting in his Word.

Refrain:

Only trust him, only trust him, only trust him now;
he will save you, he will save you, he will save you now.

For Jesus shed his precious blood rich blessings to bestow;
plunge now into the crimson flood that washes white as snow.

(Refrain)

Yes, Jesus is the truth, the way, that leads you into rest;
believe in him without delay, and you are fully blessed.

(Refrain)

Come then, and join this holy band, and on to glory go,
to dwell in that celestial land, where joys immortal flow.

(Refrain)

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, Question and Answer #1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 338 “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.

Has thou not bid us love thee, God and King?
All, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength and mind.
I see thy cross – there teach my heart to cling:
O let me seek thee, and O let me find.

Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
the baptism of the heav’n-descended Dove,
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

SCRIPTURE: *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.”

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

SERMON: “Shema: Hear, Understand, and Obey”

Dr. Thad James

HYMN: 478 “I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know ‘tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

(Refrain)

THE SACRAMENT OF LORD’S SUPPER:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
People: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**
Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.
People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**
Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

HYMN: 478 "I Love to Tell the Story"

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.

(Refrain)

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

July 12 Hunter Sheppard

July 15 Joanie Norris

July 15 Nathan Staggs

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

COVENANT KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will not meet tonight.