

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 19, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton
Dr. Linda Graham, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers
Tindol Pate, piano

REFLECTIONS:

Jesus speaks of rest as something we “find.” This kind of language reveals an important dimension to this rest. It is objective in the sense that it lies outside of ourselves. Rest is not an inner state that can be produced by thinking a certain way or placing ourselves in the right conditions. It is obtained only by entering into a relationship. When we find Christ, we find rest.

John Koessler
The Radical Pursuit of Rest

Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus, it comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. Grace is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: “My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Cost of Discipleship

The mystery is this: God did not create the union of Christ and the church after the pattern of human marriage—just the reverse! He created human marriage on the pattern of Christ's relation to the church...Those of us who are married need to ponder again and again how mysterious and wonderful it is that God grants us in marriage the privilege to image forth stupendous divine realities infinitely bigger and greater than ourselves.

John Piper
Desiring God

Men will never be obedient to God's precepts, unless their distrust of Him is corrected, and will be always ingenious in laying hold of pretexts for disobedience.

John Calvin

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 135 & 1 Timothy 1:17*

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord, give praise, O servants of the Lord,
who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God!

All: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

Pastor: For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

All: Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

Pastor: To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory
forever and ever. Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 38 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

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 14:25-33*

²⁵Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we come seeking your mercy. Your Son's words expose how meager our commitment to you truly is. Though we claim to be followers of Jesus, we can cherish other things and other people more than we love Him. We confess that our affection and attention is often focused more on people made in your image, instead of the One whose image we bear. We readily delight in our accomplishments or possessions but can be reluctant to find joy in your Son who gave Himself for us. Please forgive us. Holy Spirit, help us to know and love Jesus more and more, and gladly surrender everything to Him. Then, help us as His followers to love others faithfully. We rest in Jesus's love for us and His commitment to secure our salvation. In His name we pray, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Titus 3*

Pastor: Remember the promises of the gospel for those who believe. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

All: **But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

Pastor: According to the mercy of God and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 461 "Not What My Hands Have Done"

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee,
can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work, save thine, no other blood will do;
no strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
and with unfalt'ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in his tomb
each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling'ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;
he calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.
'Tis he who saveth me, and freely, pardon gives;
I love because he loveth me, I live because he lives.

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:

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: 735 "Gloria Patri"

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.

SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 10:28-39*

²⁸“The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, ²⁹join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his rules and his statutes. ³⁰We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons. ³¹And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt. ³²We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: ³³for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. ³⁴We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law. ³⁵We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord; ³⁶also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks; ³⁷and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor. ³⁸And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes. And the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. ³⁹For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God.”

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

SERMON: “Moving Forward by Entering In”

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 585 “Take My Life, and Let It Be”

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

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: 585 "Take My Life, and Let It Be"

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose,
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take my self, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

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 19 Hannah Urban

July 22 Lisa Kidder

July 24 Darla Cook

July 25 Steve Nippert

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

COVENANT KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

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