

Idols are not limited to primitive societies; there are many sophisticated idols too. An idol is a god-substitute. Any person or thing that occupies the place which God should occupy is an idol. Covetousness is idolatry. Ideologies can be idolatries. So can fame, wealth and power, sex, food, alcohol and other drugs, parents, spouse, children and friends, work, recreation, television and possessions, even church, religion, and Christian service. Idols always seem particularly dominant in cities. Jesus wept over the impenitent city of Jerusalem. Paul was deeply pained by the idolatrous city of Athens. Have we ever been provoked by the idolatrous cities of the contemporary world?

John R. W. Stott
from *The Spirit, the Church, and the World*

The message of the Bible is that just as idols deceive us, so also they eventually disappoint and disillusion us. They are silent when we turn to them for insight and impotent when we go to them for help.

Richard Keyes

Christianity rests on the certainty of Jesus' resurrection as a space-time occurrence in history. All four Gospels highlight it, focusing on the empty tomb and resurrection appearances, and Acts insists on it. Paul regarded the Resurrection as indisputable proof that the message about Jesus as Judge and Savior is true. Jesus' resurrection demonstrated His victory over death, vindicated Him as righteous, and indicated His divine identity. It led on to His ascension and enthronement and His present heavenly reign. It guarantees the believer's present forgiveness and justification and is the basis of resurrection life in Christ for the believer here and now.

J. I. Packer

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

July 1, 2018 • 11:00 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Steven Crawford
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: *from Isaiah 55*

Pastor: Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

All: Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

Pastor: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

**All: let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

Pastor: For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; and the mountains
and the hills before you shall break forth into singing.

Come, let us worship.

HYMN OF PRAISE: 700 "Come, We That Love 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: *Exodus 20:1-6; Psalm 135:15-18*

¹And God spoke all these words, saying, ²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

¹⁵The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ¹⁶They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; ¹⁷they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. ¹⁸Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Almighty God, Jesus promised that you bless those who are pure in heart. But we have defiled our hearts with idols of our own choosing, doubting that you will keep your Word and your promises. We continually compromise the truth by trying to find meaning and security in our jobs, our friends, our pleasures, our projects— but not in you. Please have mercy upon us and forgive our idolatry. Holy Spirit, enable genuine worship and sincere service by helping us love God with all of our being, and our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 5:6-10*

Pastor: For those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, hear the good news of salvation. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

All: **God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Pastor: Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

All: **For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 247 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Nicene Creed*

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 334 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babblers wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. ²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And 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, ²⁷that 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, ²⁸for ‘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.’ ²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” ³²Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

SERMON:

“Transcendent and Immanent”

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 12 “Exalt the Lord, His Praise Proclaim”

COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Pastor: As the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread and offered thanksgiving to God, so too we now offer to God our thanks and praise.

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: 181 "We Come, O Christ, to You"

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSING HYMN: 263 "Lift High the Cross" v. 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

YOUTH TO RYM

Please pray for our youth and their leaders as they attend the RYM Summer Conference in Panama City Beach this week. Because of this conference there will not be any youth group meetings tonight or next Sunday, July 8. Our next youth group will be on July 15. Thanks for your prayers!

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LIZ CRAVENS

The visitation and memorial service for Liz Cravens will be held this Tuesday, July 3, in the sanctuary. Visitation begins at 10:00am, and the service will follow at 11:00am. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

July 1 Daniel Kidder
July 3 Dallas Holland
July 6 Lora Locklear
July 7 Janalie Graham

NO WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Due to the holiday this week and VBS next week, the women's Bible studies will not meet on July 4 or 11. The studies will resume on Wednesday, July 18.

VBS VOLUNTEERS

We need plenty of help for VBS this year (July 9-12)! There is a sign up sheet in the foyer, or contact Joann Williams (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

"THE GREATEST" July 9-12 from 9:00-12:00

VBS is designed for rising K5 through 12 years old. There are three ways to register your children for VBS:

1. See your email announcements for a link to register online
2. Registration form in foyer of sanctuary
3. Sign up during VBS

Early registration assists in purchasing supplies and preparing class materials. Nursery (under 2 years) and a toddler VBS program (2-4 year olds) will be provided for children of individuals who are working VBS.

SNACKS NEEDED FOR VBS

We need the following items for snacks: Individual boxes or pouches of juice - (e.g. Capri Sun, HiC, etc), individual snack servings of cookies, chips, etc, and fresh fruit during the week of VBS. If you would like to help with fruit, please contact Joann. PLEASE NO PEANUTS. We have several children with peanut allergies. A box has been placed in the foyer of the sanctuary for the non-perishable snack and drink items.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

The Church needs additional teams of two or more to prepare Communion each Sunday. It is a necessary part of preparing for worship and, with a full contingent of teams, will happen every 7 or 8 weeks. If you want to serve, see Jimmy Hopper and he will set you up for training with a team and will put you into the rotation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

At Riverwood Presbyterian Church we have Sunday School at 9:45am for all age groups.

MEETING DOWNSTAIRS:

Nursery: Multi-Staffed
2-3 year olds: Janalie Graham & Joanie Norris
4-5 year olds: Debbie Jones

MEETING UPSTAIRS:

Grades 1-3: Monica Urban
Grades 4-6: Ginny Nippert

MEETING IN THE BARN:

Youth Class led by Jeff Pate

MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Adult Class

MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Adult Class - *Disability and the Gospel* led by Gene Martin

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

July 1: Elena Arnold / Ginny Nippert / Lisa & Daniel Kidder / Gabe Henson
July 8: Heather Henson / Meg Sigmon / Rachael & Caleb Drinkard / Wilson Pate

JULY DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacons: Bruce DeHaan & Tom Arnold
Clean Up: Steve Patridge & Dusty Sheppard

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2018:

Operating Income:	\$201,224.04
Operating Expense*:	\$217,715.78
Net Income:	(\$16,491.74)
Designated gifts:	\$16,066.00
Building loan balance:	\$913,585.48

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*