

REFLECTIONS

Spiritual leadership is not won by promotion, but by prayers and tears. It is attained by much heart-searching and humbling before God; by self-surrender, a courageous sacrifice of every idol, a bold uncompromising, and uncomplaining embracing of the cross, and by an eternal, unfaltering looking unto Jesus crucified. This is a great price, but it must be unflinchingly paid by him who would be a real spiritual leader of men, a leader whose power is recognized and felt in heaven, on earth and in hell.

Samuel Brengle

Among the most vital means of grace are other Christians.

Richard Lovelace

It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God.... Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

July 25, 2021 • 11:00 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
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 111*

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

**All: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Pastor: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.
Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

**All: He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.
Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 110 "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, from the heavens praise his name;
praise Jehovah in the highest, all his angels, praise proclaim.
All his hosts, together praise him, sun and moon and stars on high;
praise him, O you heav'ns of heavens, and you floods above the sky.

Chorus:

Let them praises give Jehovah, for his name alone is high,
and his glory is exalted, and his glory is exalted,
and his glory is exalted far above the earth and sky.

Let them praises give Jehovah, they were made at his command;
them forever he established, his decree shall ever stand.
From the earth, O praise Jehovah, all you seas, you monsters all,
fire and hail and snow and vapors, stormy winds that hear his call.

All you fruitful trees and cedars, all you hills and mountains high,
creeping things and beasts and cattle, birds that in the heavens fly,
kings of earth, and all you people, princes great, earth's judges all;
praise his name, young men and maidens, aged men, and children small.

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: *Jeremiah 8:8-12*

⁸“How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us’? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie. ⁹The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord, so what wisdom is in them? ¹⁰Therefore I will give their wives to others and their fields to conquerors, because from the least to the greatest everyone is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. ¹¹They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace. ¹²Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among the fallen; when I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the Lord.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Almighty God, we have gathered together to worship you today. As we do, we confess that our hearts are often divided in devotion, our minds consumed with worldly concerns, our affections bent toward personal glory and our time spent in selfish pursuits. If left in our sinfulness, we would trample your courts bringing vain offerings and practicing worthless religion. Wash us. Cleanse us with the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. Change us. Holy Spirit abiding in us, make us like our Savior who is obedient, just, merciful, and compassionate. In his name we pray, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Isaiah 1:18; 1 Corinthians 6:11*

Pastor: Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. Through faith in God's Son, you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. May the peace of God be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 253 "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains:
lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away:
washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away;
and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream your flowing wounds supply,
redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die:
and shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song I'll sing your pow'r to save,
when this poor lisper, stamm'ring tongue lies silent in the grave:
lies silent in the grave, lies silent in the grave;
when this poor lisper, stamm'ring tongue lies silent in the grave.

Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood shall never lose its pow'r,
till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more:
be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more;
till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more.

COMMITMENT

OFFERING

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

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: “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: “Speak, O Lord”

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow’r that can never fail—
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises,
and by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of ruling elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

QUESTION TO CHURCH MEMBERS:

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive this brother as a ruling elder (or deacon), and do you promise to yield him all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which his office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles him?

COMMUNION

HYMN: 505 "I'm Not Ashamed to Own My Lord"

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, or to defend his cause,
maintain the honor of his Word, the glory of his cross.

Jesus, my God! I know his name, his name is all my trust;
nor will he put my soul to shame, nor let my hope be lost.

Firm as his throne his promise stands, and he can well secure
what I've committed to his hands till the decisive hour.

Then will he own my worthless name before his Father's face,
and in the new Jerusalem appoint my soul a place.

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: 122 “God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory”

God, all nature sings thy glory, and thy works proclaim thy might;
ordered vastness in the heavens, ordered course of day and night;
beauty in the changing seasons, beauty in the storming sea;
all the changing moods of nature praise the changeless Trinity.

Clearer still we see thy hand in man whom thou has made for thee;
ruler of creation’s glory, image of thy majesty.
Music, art, the fruitful garden, all the labor of his days,
are the calling of his Maker to the harvest feast of praise.

But our sins have spoiled thine image; nature, conscience only serve
as unceasing, grim reminders of the wrath which we deserve.
Yet thy grace and saving mercy in thy Word of truth revealed
claim the praise of all who know thee, in the blood of Jesus sealed.

God of glory, power, mercy, all creation praises thee;
we, thy creatures, would adore thee now and through eternity.
Saved to magnify thy goodness, grant us strength to do thy will;
with our acts as with our voices thy commandments to fulfill.

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 25 Steve Nippert
July 26 Will Tootle
July 28 John Kim

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

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).

WARRIOR PRESBYTERY WOMEN'S MINISTRY SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

The annual spiritual connection is next Saturday, July 31, 2021, at Faunsdale Presbyterian Church. Registration is 9:00-9:30am, and lunch and childcare are provided. Kindly RSVP by 10:00am on Monday, July 26, by phone or text to Gail Rankin at 334-341-3322; please indicate if you have children who will need childcare. The program will feature Tollie Meggs from Out of the Boat Ministries. Come hear Tollie's message as she will surely encourage and challenge us.

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.

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*