

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 26, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Eighth 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
Joann Williams, piano

REFLECTIONS:

To say “I have hope” is to say something not only about yourself, but also about the world you understand yourself to inhabit: that this world is not a quarry of despair, but a realm in which the surprising things can happen.

Charles Mathewes
from *The Republic of Grace: Augustinian Thoughts for Dark Times*

Now joy is a true state. It has a reality; it has nothing to do with what most people have in mind when they talk about happiness, which is not a real state and does not really exist.

James Baldwin (American Novelist)
From an essay, *Uses of the Blues*

The difference between shallow happiness and a deep, sustaining joy is sorrow. Happiness lives where sorrow is not. When sorrow arrives, happiness dies. It can't stand pain. Joy, on the other hand, rises from sorrow and therefore can withstand all grief. Joy, by the grace of God, is the transfiguration of suffering into endurance, and of endurance into character, and of character into hope—and the hope that has become our joy does not (as happiness must for those who depend on it) disappoint us.

Walter Wangerin, Jr.
from *Reliving the Passion*

To believe in the supernatural is not simply to believe that after living a successful, material, and fairly virtuous life here one will continue to exist in the best-possible substitute for this world, or that after living a starved and stunted life here one will be compensated with all the good things one has gone without: it is to believe that the supernatural is the greatest reality here and now.

T. S. Eliot

CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 106

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever.

**All: Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.**

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
And let all the people say,

All: Amen!

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

HYMN: 2 "O Worship the King"

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;
our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!
While angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

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: Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Father in Heaven, our prayer is always "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." We recognize that we pray this because temptation is always close at hand and we often do not flee from it. We often don't struggle against it as we should. We pander to it and even seek it out. Forgive us, Lord. You have given us so much and yet we remain so weak. Convince us of the true nature of the battle, of the wiles of the enemy, of the dishonesty of our own hearts. Strengthen us to resist. Cause us to hold to You above all other things, all other desires, all other idols. Turn our hearts forever to You so that we may see more clearly your beauty and the power of Your grace; grace sufficient to cover all our weakness.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 John 1:9*

Through the matchless grace of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. The Apostle writes: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Pastor: Children of God, he is faithful and just and because of his body and blood, you are forgiven, and you are at peace with God.

People: **Praise His holy name!**

HYMN: 465 "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Chorus:

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;
grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the Refuge, the mighty cross.

(Chorus)

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, what can avail to wash it away?
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide; whiter than snow you may be today.

(Chorus)

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:

from *The Heidelberg Catechism*, Question and Answer 32

Leader: Why are you called a Christian?

People: Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 457 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God:
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander - Lord, I feel it -
prone to leave the God I love:
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 67*

¹May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
²that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

⁶The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.

⁷God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

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

SERMON: "Hope-Fueled Gladness and Glory"

Rev. Bill James

HYMN: 345 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode:
on the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove:
who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst t'assuage?
grace which, like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

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: 345 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

Round each habitation hov'ring, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring, showing that the Lord is near:
thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which he gives them when they pray.

Savior, if of Zion's city I, through grace, a member am,
let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy name:
fading is the worldling's pleasure, all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure none but Zion's children know.

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 26 Will Tootle
July 28 John Kim
August 1 Savannah Cook
August 1 Evan Patridge

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

COVENANT KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will NOT meet tonight.

WINGS OF GRACE DONATION DRIVE

Riverwood is currently collecting donations of school supplies, food, and Christmas bags for Wings of Grace. Please see your weekly email for all the details.