

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 5, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am & 10:30am

REFLECTIONS:

Contrary to Jesus' sweetie-pie reputation, throughout the Gospels his most constant exhortation is "Repent." Only bracing honesty with ourselves is able to open us to receive this enormous love. People who think they have only a little dinky bit of sin can only visualize a little dinky cross. Those who are forgiven much, as the Gospel says, love much.

Frederica Mathewes-Green
from *At the Corner of East and Now*

The Cross of Jesus Christ destroys all pride. We cannot find the Cross of Jesus if we shrink from going to the place where it is to be found, namely, the public death of the sinner. And we refuse to bear the Cross when we are ashamed to take upon ourselves the shameful death of the sinner in confession. In confession we break through to the true fellowship of the Cross of Jesus Christ, in confession we affirm and accept our Cross.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Now let us cast ourselves down before the majesty of our good God with acknowledgment of our faults, praying him to make us so to feel them that it makes us not only confess three or four of them, but also go back even to our birth and acknowledge that there is nothing but sin in us, and that there is no way for us to be reconciled to our God, but by the blood, death and passion of our Lord Jesus Christ...And let us so continue in the same that we may be an example to others and labor to draw them with us to the faith and unity of the doctrine, and by our life and good conversation show that we have not in vain gone to so good a school as that of the Son of God.

John Calvin

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 40 & 1 Peter 2*

Pastor: I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

People: **We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that we may proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

Pastor: God has claimed us. He has made us his people. Come, let us worship him.

HYMN: 660 "O God beyond All Praising"

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of 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: John 14:15-26

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." ²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. ²⁵These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, though you sent the power of the Holy Spirit to fill your people with willing faith, we resist the force of your Spirit among us. We are slow to serve you and reluctant to spread the good news of your love. Though you sent the Light of the world to light the paths of our life, we all too often, in our sin, love the darkness. Though You called us to unity with Christ and with each other, we have allowed divisions to separate us from you and from others.

Forgive us, Lord. Have mercy on us. Cause us in this hour and every hour to come before you in true repentance. Turn us back to Jesus, the Light of life. Forgive our divisions and by your mighty Spirit, draw your people together. In flame us, Lord, with a desire to do your will and be your faithful people. We ask this all in the name and for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Isaiah 55:6-7*

Pastor: Hear now the sure promise of pardon from the prophet Isaiah:
“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
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: May the peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 674 “I Need Thee Every Hour”

I need thee ev’ry hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need thee, O I need thee, ev’ry hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

I need thee ev’ry hour; stay thou nearby;
temptations lose their pow’r when thou art nigh.

(Refrain)

I need thee ev’ry hour; teach me thy will,
and thy rich promises in me fulfil.

(Refrain)

I need thee ev’ry hour, Most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.

(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:

from *The Westminster Confession*, Chapter 15, Articles 1,2 and 3

Leader: Christian, what is repentance which leads to life?

All: Repentance which leads to life is the blessed product of the gospel working in believers' lives. Along with the doctrine of faith in Christ, it is a doctrine to be preached by every minister of the gospel.

In this repentance the sinner is able to see his sins as God sees them, as filthy and hateful, and as involving great danger to the sinner, because they are completely contrary to the holy nature and righteous law of God. Understanding that God in Christ is merciful to those who repent, the sinner suffers deep sorrow for and hates his sins, and so he determines to turn away from all of them. And turning to God, he tries to walk with him according to all his commandments.

Although repentance is not any satisfaction for sin and does not cause the forgiveness of sins (since forgiveness is an act of God's voluntary grace in Christ), yet it is necessary to all sinners, and no one may expect to be forgiven without it.

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 460 "Amazing Grace!"

Amazing grace! – how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 9:32-38*

³²“Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day. ³³Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly. ³⁴Our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not kept your law or paid attention to your commandments and your warnings that you gave them. ³⁵Even in their own kingdom, and amid your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you or turn from their wicked works. ³⁶Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. ³⁷And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress. ³⁸Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.”

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

SERMON: “Telling It Like It Is” Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 521 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

(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: 521 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

(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 7 Janalie Graham
July 9 Meg Sigmon
July 11 Clay Staggs

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

COVENANT KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club meets tonight from 6:30-7:30 on the lawn behind the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a water bottle. An individually-wrapped snack will be provided. Youth Group meets tonight from 6:30-7:30 outside behind the Administration Building.

PLEASE REACH OUT WITH NEEDS

Romans 12:13 says this: "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." These are extraordinary times. Hospitality may look different right now, but as the body of Christ, we at Riverwood are still called to love each other through service and attention to each other's needs. If you have a need, whether financial, physical, spiritual, or emotional, please reach out to your elder or a deacon. Elders will continue to reach out to their folds as well. In this way, we can continue to love each other and lift each other up. If you aren't sure who to contact, you can also email Jeff (jpate@riverwoodchurch.org) or Sarah (secretary@riverwoodchurch.org).