

## REFLECTIONS

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The Spirit awakens our dead hearts and opens our blind eyes to see Jesus! Amazingly, when the Spirit works in our hearts to bring us salvation, his central purpose is to show us the beauty and glory of Jesus, not himself. Although the Spirit plays this crucial role in our salvation, and even more of a role in our ongoing sanctification, nonetheless, his goal is to open our eyes to behold the wonder and glory of Christ.

Bruce Ware

The spirit of bondage works by fear for the slave fears the rod: but love cries, Abba, Father; it disposes us to go to God, and behave ourselves towards God as children; and it gives us clear evidence of our union to God as His children, and so casts out fear. So that it appears that the witness of the Spirit the apostle speaks of, is far from being any whisper, or immediate suggestion or revelation; but that gracious holy effect of the Spirit of God in the hearts of the saints, the disposition and temper of children, appearing in sweet childlike love to God, which casts out fear or a spirit of a slave.

Jonathan Edwards

But whatever dismal appearance of things there may be in the world, we need not fear the ruin of the church by the most bloody oppositions. Former experiences will give security against future events. It is built on the rock, and those gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

John Owen

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

June 13, 2021 • 11:00 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Third Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Jimmy Hopper  
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

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#### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 100*

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

People: **Know that the LORD, he is God!**

**It is he who made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Pastor: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

People: **For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,**

**and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Pastor: Come! Let us worship!

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**HYMN: 57** “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul”

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.  
Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;  
he shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid;  
he is blessed whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God is stayed.  
Heav'n and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain;  
he delivers from oppression, righteousness he will maintain.

Food he daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning pris'ner free,  
raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eye to see.  
Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger he befriends,  
helps the fatherless and widow, judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.  
Over all God reigns forever, through all ages he is King;  
unto him, your God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.

**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

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**SCRIPTURE READING:** *Luke 12:22-31*

<sup>22</sup>And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup>For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.”

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**All:** Gracious Father, we confess that we selfishly live our lives focused on our own desires rather than on the excellence and majesty of your worth and glory. We forget that Your kingdom is at hand. Instead of fleeing from temptation and seeking first your kingdom and its righteousness, we often embrace lies and comfort ourselves with folly. Forgive us and heal our hearts this day. Give us a new desire to love what you love, to forgive others, and to praise our Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION**

# CONFESSION

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## WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 John 4:9-10*

Pastor: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## HYMN: “Before the Throne of God Above”

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,  
a great High Priest whose name is “Love,” who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in Heav’n He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart, no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
for God, the just, is satisfied,  
to look on Him and pardon me, to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,  
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of Glory and of grace!  
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood!  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ my Savior and my God, with Christ my Savior and my God.

Words by Charitie Bancroft; Music by Vikki Cook  
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# COMMITMENT

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## OFFERING

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

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

from *The Westminster Confession of Faith*,  
Article XXV: "The Church," Articles 2 & 3

**All:** The visible church is also catholic or universal under the gospel, that is, it is not confined to one nation as previously under the Mosaic Law. It consists of everyone in the world who professes the true religion together with their children. The visible church is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ and the house and family of God, outside of which people cannot ordinarily be saved.

In order to gather and perfect the saints in this life until the end of the world Christ has given the ministry, Scriptures, and ordinances of God to this universal visible church, and by his own presence and Spirit he enables the church to function in this way according to his promise.

**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.

# COMMITMENT

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## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

## PREACHING OF THE WORD

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SCRIPTURE: *Jude 17-21*

<sup>17</sup>But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” <sup>19</sup>It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup>keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

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

SERMON: “How We Contend for the Faith, Part 1”

Rev. Jeff Pate

- I. Don't be surprised by what you see.
  - A. The apostles' inspired predictions

*Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons...*

1 Timothy 4:1

*But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*

2 Timothy 3:1-5

*This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.*

2 Peter 3:1-3

B. The character of the ungodly and the consequence of their sin

II. Keep yourselves in the love of God.

A. Keep growing in the faith.

B. Keep praying in the Holy Spirit.

C. Keep anticipating the mercy of Christ.

# COMMUNION

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HYMN: 469 "How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place"

How sweet and awesome is the place with Christ within the doors,  
while everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,  
each of us cries, with thankful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?"

"Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there's room,  
when thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?"

'Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us in;  
else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God, constrain the earth to come;  
send your victorious Word abroad, and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full, that all the chosen race  
may, with one voice and heart and soul, sing your redeeming grace.

## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

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.**

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.

## 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

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HYMN: 529 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down:  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev’ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:  
take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heav’n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## 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

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

June 13 Carolyn Hopper  
June 16 Emory Arnold

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be July 6 - 9 from 9:00-11:30am. We need people to help with preparations (e.g. make props, etc.) and during the week of VBS (e.g. teach, music, games, etc.). There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex this morning or you can contact Joann.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, June 25: Kids Game Night  
July 6-9: Vacation Bible School  
Saturday, July 24: Family Fun Day at Lake Lurleen  
Saturday, July 31: Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry Retreat at  
Faunsdale Presbyterian Church

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Through May 2021*

Operating Income:	\$176,635.72
Operating Expense*:	\$178,800.31
Net Income:	(\$2,164.59)
Designated gifts:	\$39,558.00
Building loan balance:	\$682,025.61

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*