

REFLECTIONS

God has no obligation to sinful men except to condemn. He may or may not, as His wisdom dictates, exercise mercy upon them. But mercy is not something which God must offer anybody. He offered no mercy to the angels when they sinned. And He says with respect to fallen human creatures: "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy" (Rom. 9:18). He strongly insists that mercy is optional with Him and a matter of His sovereign pleasure alone.

John Gerstner
from *Theology for Everyman*

Mercy explains how a holy and loving God can relate to sinners without compromising who He is.

Dave Harvey
from *When Sinners Say "I Do"*

The only real, practical measure of my apprehension for the goodness and mercy of God to me is the extent to which I am, in turn, prepared to show goodness and mercy to others.

Phillip Keller
from *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*

The motive for repentance is not only sorrow for sin but also a sense of the mercy of God in Christ. We have zero motivation to repent, unless we see the mercy of God awaiting us. Not the slap of God, but the embrace of God. Repentance is not just turning from sin, not even that primarily. Repentance is primarily turning to God, moment by moment, because He has promised His mercy to the penitent.

Ray Ortlund

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

June 20, 2021 • 11:00 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Jimmy Hopper
David Bedsole, 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 85*

Pastor: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.

**All: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**All: Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

Pastor: Yes, the Lord will give what is good.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 32 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Chorus)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Chorus)

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: *Lamentations 3:1-3, 19-26*

¹I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; ²he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; ³surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long...¹⁹Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! ²⁰My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. ²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." ²⁵The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. ²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Almighty and holy God, we bow before you because you alone deserve our worship. You are the living and true God and besides you there is no other. But our hearts and minds deceive us and we are often drawn away from you. We are tempted to think that someone else or something else can save us or give us lasting joy. We are enticed by our own sinful desires to follow our worldly appetites and selfish affections. Please forgive us and remind us of your mercy and steadfast love so that we may once again know the joy of your salvation. Remind us that you have hidden your face from our sins and blotted out our iniquities through the sacrificial death of your Son. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and create in us clean hearts, renewed minds, and righteous affections. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Ephesians 1*

Pastor: For all those whose faith rests on Jesus Christ, hear the promise of the gospel! In love, God predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. The peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 437 “O God, to Us Show Mercy”

O God, to us show mercy and bless us in your grace;
cause now to shine upon us the brightness of your face;
that so your way most holy on earth may soon be known,
and unto ev'ry people your saving grace be shown.

O God, let all men praise you, let all the nations sing;
in ev'ry land let praises and songs of gladness ring;
for you shall judge the people in truth and righteousness,
and through the earth the nations shall your just rule confess.

O God, let people praise you, let all the nations sing,
for earth in rich abundance to us her fruit shall bring.
The Lord our God shall bless us, our God shall blessing send,
and all the earth shall fear him to its remotest end.

COMMITMENT

OFFERING

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

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: “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: “Come, O Creator Spirit Blest”

Come, O Creator Spirit blest,
and in our hearts take up your rest;
Spirit of grace, with heav’nly aid
come to the souls whom you have made.

You are the Comforter, we cry,
sent to the earth from God Most High,
fountain of life and fire of love,
and our anointing from above.

Make our dull minds with rapture glow,
let human hearts with love o’erflow;
and when our feeble flesh would fail,
may your immortal strength prevail.

Show us the Father, Holy One,
help us to know th’eternal Son;
Spirit divine, forevermore
you will we trust and you adore.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Jude 22, 23*

²²And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

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 2
 “The Power of Mercy”

Rev. Jeff Pate

“If the grace of God contemplates man as guilty before God, and therefore in need of forgiveness, the mercy of God contemplates him as one who is bearing the consequences of sin, who is in a pitiable condition, and who therefore needs divine help. It may be defined as the goodness or love of God shown to those who are in misery or distress, irrespective of their deserts.”

Louis Berkhof
Systematic Theology

“Grace has to do with man’s merits, but mercy has to do with man’s misery.”
Puritan, as quoted by Tim Keller

We contend for the faith by showing Godlike mercy.

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

Luke 6:35, 36

In order to show God's mercy, we must know God's mercy.

God's mercy is...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

A parable of mercy - Luke 10:25-37

Jude's letter and the problems caused by sin in the church:

The ministry of mercy and Matthew 18

COMMUNION

HYMN: “Jesus, Strong and Kind”

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.

Chorus:

For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross. He will come to me.

Words and music by Colin Buchanan, Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, & Rich Thompson
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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.

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.

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

June 21 Daven Pate
June 25 Elliot Arnold
June 25 Bruce DeHaan
June 25 Gene Martin
June 26 Tom Arnold

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 6-9, 9:00-11:30AM

Online registration is available under the "Forms and Sign-Ups" tab on the church website. You are not required to pre-register your children. Hard copies of the registration form are available in the Narthex or during VBS. It is not too late to volunteer! Sign up in the narthex or contact Joann Williams. There is a box in the narthex to collect snacks and drinks for VBS. We need individually packaged snacks (no peanuts) and individual drink boxes (e.g. Capri Suns, KoolAids). Please be in prayer for the ministry of VBS!

KIDS JAMMIN NIGHT

Covenant Kids Jammin Nights have returned! Children of Riverwood and friends, please join us this Friday, June 25 from 6:00-8:30 for pizza and games and whatever other shenanigans Joann can come up with for the evening.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting following Morning Worship on July 18, 2021, for the purpose of the election of officers. Dustin Sheppard was nominated to serve as a Ruling Elder and Marvin Skelton was nominated to serve as a Deacon. Both have completed officer training and have been examined and approved by the Session and will stand for election by the Congregation. Additionally, Steven Crawford has been on sabbatical and wishes to return to service as a Deacon, a position he previously held and in which he has been ordained to serve. Jeremy Jones, an ordained Deacon, also is returning to service. Both will be on the ballot for approval for service. Following the Congregational Meeting, there will be dinner on the grounds, a time of good food and fellowship.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through May 2021

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|------------------------|--------------|
| 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*