

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 21, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Third Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin
Dr. Linda Graham, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers
Joann Williams, piano

REFLECTIONS:

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him...

Colossians 1:21,22

Ponder the achievement of God. He doesn't condone our sin; nor does he compromise his standard. He doesn't ignore our rebellion; nor does he relax his demands. Rather than dismiss our sin he assumes our sin and, incredibly, sentences himself. God's holiness is honored. Our sin is punished. And we are redeemed. God is still God. The wages of sin is death. And we are made perfect.

Max Lucado, from *In the Grip of Grace*

The reward of the righteous is described as eternal life, that is, not merely an endless life, but life in all its fulness, without any of the imperfections and disturbances of the present...The fulness of this life is enjoyed in communion with God, which is really the essence of eternal life, Rev. 21:3. They will see God in Jesus Christ, face to face, will find full satisfaction in Him, will rejoice in Him, and will glorify Him.

Louis Berkhof, from *Systematic Theology*
"The Final State"

CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 84

Pastor: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;

All: my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Pastor: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

**All: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

Pastor: Better is a day in the courts of the Lord than a thousand elsewhere.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 376 “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!

Lord, my God, I come before thee, come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter thou, let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken, let me keep thy gift divine,
howsoe'er temptations thicken; may thy Word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life, as my comfort in my strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows, here is balm for all our woes.

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: Acts 2:37-41

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we come to worship you because you have called us. As we come, we admit our desperate need for your mercy because we are sinful people. Our only hope for the forgiveness of our sins is through faith in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. So we repent of placing our trust in anything other than Him. As people you have called to be your own, we claim Jesus as our own Savior and Lord. Thank you for your promised Holy Spirit. Fill us. Renew us. Save us. We pray together in Jesus's name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Micah 7:18-19*

Pastor: Who is a God like our God, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance?

All: He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquity underfoot.

Pastor: He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

All: In Jesus Christ I am forgiven. God's Son has died for me!

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 263 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw men unto thee.

(Refrain)

For thy blest cross which doth for us atone,
creation's praises rise before thy throne.

(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: *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: 735 "Gloria Patri"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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.

SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 9:16-25*

¹⁶“But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. ¹⁷They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. ¹⁸Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and had committed great blasphemies, ¹⁹you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. ²⁰You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. ²¹Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell. ²²And you gave them kingdoms and peoples and allotted to them every corner. So they took possession of the land of Sihon king of Heshbon and the land of Og king of Bashan. ²³You multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, and you brought them into the land that you had told their fathers to enter and possess. ²⁴So the descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they would. ²⁵And they captured fortified cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses full of all good things, cisterns already hewn, vineyards, olive orchards and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat and delighted themselves in your great goodness.”

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

SERMON: “A God Ready to Forgive”

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 469 “How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place”

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF LORD’S SUPPER: *Psalm 103:1-4; Revelation 5:12*

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
Pastor: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
All: who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.
Pastor: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
All: to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

HYMN: "O Church, Arise"

O church, arise, and put your armor on; hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war - to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure;
And Christ will have the prize for which He died: an inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away, and Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride; give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day when with Christ we stand in Glory.

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
©2005 Thankyou Music; CCLI license #11239744

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

June 21	Daven Pate	June 25	Bruce DeHaan
June 21	Lowell Urban	June 25	Gene Martin
June 25	Elliot Arnold	June 26	Tom Arnold
June 27	Peter Vander Wal		

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.