

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 28, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Fourth 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:

Is it a small thing in your eyes to be loved by God – to be the son, the spouse, the love, the delight of the King of glory? Christian, believe this, and think about it: you will be eternally embraced in the arms of the love which was from everlasting, and will extend to everlasting – of the love which brought the Son of God’s love from heaven to earth, from earth to the cross, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to glory – that love which was weary, hungry, tempted, scorned, scourged, buffeted, spat upon, crucified, pierced – which fasted, prayed, taught, healed, wept, sweated, bled, died. That love will eternally embrace you.

Richard Baxter

Christian conversion recognizes that we become God’s children, members of his family, by grace and adoption, not by nature. Those who are converted, therefore, find that they must answer not only to God, but also to and for the community of the faithful.

James P. Hanigan
from *Theology Today*

Sin, both our own and that of others, drives us into customized selfishness. Separation from God becomes separation from neighbor. The same salvation that restores our relation with God reinstates us in the community of persons who live by faith. Every tendency to privatism and individualism distorts and falsifies the gospel. The Bible knows nothing of the soul who is, in Plotinus’s words, “alone with the Alone.”

Eugene H. Peterson
from *Reversed Thunder*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *based on Psalm 103*

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**All: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

Pastor: as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**All: As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

Pastor: The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 75 "O Father, You Are Sovereign"

O Father, you are sovereign in all the worlds you made;
your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the ocean's shore,
sets stars within their courses and stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, you are sovereign in all affairs of man;
no pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space,
you hold your trusting children secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign, the Lord of human pain,
transmuting earthly sorrows to gold of heav'nly gain.
All evil overruling, as none but Conqu'ror could,
your love pursues its purpose – our souls' eternal good.

O Father, you are sovereign! We see you dimly now,
but soon before your triumph earth's every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us our faith springs up anew:
our sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and worship you!

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: *Hebrews 12:3-12*

³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we come before you confessing that we sin in many ways. Though we are your children who have been redeemed and adopted through Jesus Christ, we live in opposition to your expressed will by what we do and what we fail to do. Please have mercy on us. Thank you for loving us and disciplining us as your children. Use your Word to teach, reprove, correct, and train us for righteousness. Holy Spirit, help us grow to full maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on 1 John 4:9,10; 3:1*

Pastor: Lift your heads and hear the good news of your Father's love. 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.

All: **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.**

Pastor: See what kind of love the Father has given to us that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 525 "A Child of the King"

My Father is rich in houses and lands,
he holdeth the wealth of the world in his hands!
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
his coffers are full, he has riches untold.

Refrain:

I'm a child of the King, a child of the King!
With Jesus, my Savior, I'm a child of the King.

My Father's own Son, the Savior of men,
once wandered o'er earth as the poorest of them;
but now he is reigning forever on high,
and will give me a home in heav'n by and by.

(Refrain)

I once was an outcast stranger on earth,
a sinner by choice, and an alien by birth!
But I've been adopted, my name's written down,
an heir to a mansion, a robe, and a crown.

(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:

The Westminster Confession of Faith, XII

All: All those that are justified, God *promises*, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God, have his name put upon them, receive the Spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry, Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him, as by a father: yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption; and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: “Speak, O Lord”

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow’r that can never fail—let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises, and by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 9:26-31*

²⁶“Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies. ²⁷Therefore you gave them into the hand of their enemies, who made them suffer. And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them from the hand of their enemies. ²⁸But after they had rest they did evil again before you, and you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them. Yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you delivered them according to your mercies. ²⁹And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them, and they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey. ³⁰Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. ³¹Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.”

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

SERMON: “Tough Love” Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 131 “Children of the Heavenly Father”

Children of the heav’nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e’er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish;
from all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.

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: 131 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers,
your Protector never slumbers;
at the will of your Defender
ev'ry foeman must surrender.

Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

More secure is no one ever
than the loved ones of the Savior;
not yon star on high abiding
nor the bird in home-nest hiding.

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 28 Parker Pate

June 30 Steven Crawford

July 1 Daniel Kidder

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

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.