

REFLECTIONS

...while there is “the invisible church” (that is, everyone who is a Christian living anywhere in the world), yet the church is not to be hidden away, in an unseen area, as though it does not matter what men see. What we are called to do, upon the basis of the finished work of Christ in the power of the Spirit through faith, is to exhibit a substantial healing, individual then corporate, so that people may observe it. This too is a portion of the apologetic: a presentation which gives at least some demonstration that these things are not theoretical but real; not perfect, yet substantial...What the world cannot explain away will be a substantial, corporate exhibition of the logical conclusions of the Christian presuppositions.

Francis Schaeffer
from *The God Who Is There*

You must pay for everything in this world one way and another. There is nothing free except the Grace of God. You cannot earn that or deserve it.

Charles Portis
from *True Grit*

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
from *The Cost of Discipleship*

Alyosha was struck most of all by her seriousness: not a shadow of laughter or playfulness was left on her face, though before gaiety and playfulness had not abandoned her even in her most “serious” moments.

“There are moments when people love crime.” Alyosha said pensively.

“Yes, yes, you've spoken my own thought, they love it, they all love it always, not just at “moments.” You know, it's as if at some point they all agree to lie about it, and have been lying about it ever since. They all say they hate what's bad, but secretly they all love it.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky
from *The Brothers Karamazov*

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

June 6, 2021 • 11:00 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Second 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

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 29*

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.
Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**

Pastor: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood.
The Lord sits enthroned as King forever.

**People: May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

Pastor: Come! Let us worship.

HYMN: 53 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
 O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
 All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
 join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
 shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
 Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
 granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
 Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
 ponder anew what the Almighty will do,
 if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
 decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
 How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief,
 spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
 All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
 Let the amen sound from his people again;
 gladly fore'er we adore him.

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: *Micah 6:6-8*

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Gracious Lord, your requirement for us is to be just in all our dealings but we are often careless in this when we ignore the injustice in our world and in our own hearts. Moreover, we ourselves have hurt others with unjust thoughts and actions.
Your requirement is for us to love mercy and kindness, but we are often unkind, unmerciful and lack love and even empathy. There is no glad sacrifice in our hearts when we fight the tendency to repay evil with evil and seek revenge.
Lord, you require us to walk humbly with our God, but we go through life doing what we wish and ignoring your will and your ways.

O Lord, forgive us! Gracious Lord, we trust in your abundant mercy. We confess that in Christ alone we have forgiveness of sins and acceptance to be in your presence. Renew us by the power of your Spirit so that more and more we may walk humbly with you and show forth your mercy and justice. For the sake of your name, work in us, draw us closer so that we may live in loving obedience to you. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Pastor: Only those united with Christ through faith can be at peace with God.
“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
To this peace we are called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 500 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfil thy law’s demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the Fountain fly, wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

COMMITMENT

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 1, 4, and 5

All: The catholic or universal church is invisible and consists of all the elect who have been, are, or ever will be gathered into one under Christ, the head. The church is his body and spouse, the fullness of God, who fills all in all.

This universal church has been sometimes more and sometimes less visible. Particular churches, which are members of it, are also more or less pure, depending on how the gospel is accepted and taught, how the ordinances of God are administered, and how public worship is performed.

The purest churches under heaven are subject both to impurity and error. Some churches have so degenerated that they are not churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan. Nevertheless, there will always be a church on earth to worship God according to his will. 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: “Holy Spirit”

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul;
Bring the presence of the Risen Lord,
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;
may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least;
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made.
Show Your power once again on earth,
cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
will be clear for all the world to see.

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PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Jude 5-16*

⁵Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— ⁷just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

⁸Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” ¹⁰But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. ¹¹Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. ¹²These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; ¹³wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” ¹⁶These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

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

SERMON: “Why We Contend for the Faith”

Rev. Jeff Pate

I. Judgment for sin is real.

A. Punishment for unbelief (v.5)

B. Punishment for rebellion (v.6)

C. Punishment for perversion (v.7)

II. The pervasive and destructive nature of sin is real.

A. Sin within the church (vs.8-10)

B. Three Old Testament examples (v.11)

C. The danger for the church (vs. 12,13)

D. Identifying marks of the ungodly (v.16)

III. God's grace is real.

COMMUNION

HYMN: “Christ Is Mine Forevermore”

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him.
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings.
But mine is hope in my Redeemer, though I fall, his love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore.

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood.
Through the valley I must travel, where I see no earthly good.
But mine is peace that flows from heaven, and the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes his work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for his name.
But mine is armour for this battle, strong enough to last the war.
And he has said he will deliver safely to the golden shore.

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure, Christ is mine forevermore.

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and 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.

BENEDICTION

HYMN: 580 “Lead On, O King Eternal”

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home;
through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin’s fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy, the heav’nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears;
for gladness breaks like morning where’er thy face appears;
thy cross is lifted o’er us; we journey in its light:
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

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 6 Rick Cook

June 9 Nancy Hopper

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15); Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

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.

CHANGE TO SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Beginning today, our Sunday morning schedule will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. followed by corporate worship at 11 a.m. We will continue to provide the livestream for those who are ill or at heightened risk.

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS

If you are interested in joining Riverwood as a member or just want to find out more about our beliefs and practices, we are offering a new member's class during the Sunday school hour. The class began today and will last approximately 6 weeks. It meets in the conference room in the Administration building at 9:45 a.m.

SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, June 9, at 6:30pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

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