

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 22, 2020 • 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim

Joann Williams, piano

REFLECTIONS:

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4:18-21

Here is the truly Christian life, here is faith really working by love, when a man applies himself with joy and love to the works of that freest servitude in which he serves others voluntarily and for naught, himself abundantly satisfied in the fullness and riches of his own faith.

Martin Luther

"On Christian Freedom"

Who stands fast? Only the man whose final standard is not his reason, his principles, his conscience, his freedom, or his virtue, but who is ready to sacrifice all this when he is called to obedient and responsible action in faith and in exclusive allegiance to God - the responsible man, who tries to make his whole life an answer to the question and call of God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 18:2-3 and Luke 6:47-48*

Pastor: The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

All: I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

Pastor: Jesus said, "Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:

All: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock."

Pastor: Come, hear God's word and respond in faith. Come and rest on Jesus Christ, the rock of our salvation. Come, and let us worship.

HYMN: 92 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;
and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he, Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.
4. That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

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: *Philippians 2:1-13*

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we confess that, out of our carefully nurtured egos, we have sought our own glory. We have rejected the humility that you have shown to us in Christ and that you require of us. Our glory has been our comfort rather than your Son's cross. Our glory has been the fellowship of those like us, not the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. Our glory is that we have worked to save and enjoy our own lives, rather than lose our lives for the sake of Your glorious Gospel. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Give us hearts of humility and repentance. Cause us to glorify You rather than seeking self-glorification. Cleanse us by the finished work of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and restore the joy, the comfort, the peace, that only you can give. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Psalm 103*

Pastor: We stand only in the grace and mercy of God, through the sacrifice of Christ. Because of Him, "the Lord does not deal with us according to our sin, or repay us according to our iniquities, For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us." May the peace of God go with us today and everyday.

HYMN: "He Will Hold Me Fast"

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus:

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

2. Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last!

OFFERING:

**Remember to worship through the giving of tithes and offerings using the link to online giving or sending checks to the church's mailing address.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: "Come, O Creator Spirit Blest"

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Show us the Father, Holy One, help us to know th'eternal Son;
Spirit divine, forevermore you will we trust and you adore.

SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 4:15-23*

¹⁵When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. ¹⁶From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, ¹⁷who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. ¹⁸And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. ¹⁹And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. ²⁰In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

²¹So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. ²²I also said to the people at that time, "Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day." ²³So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.

SERMON: "Trust in the Lord and Keep Your Powder Dry"

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: "Trust and Obey"

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

Chorus:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, but his smile quickly drives it away:
not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh nor a tear, can abide while we trust and obey.
3. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief nor a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey.
4. But we never can prove the delights of his love until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows, and the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey.
5. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go, never fear, only trust and obey.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

March 23 Ruthie Vander Wal
March 27 Linda Graham
March 28 Tammy Bell
March 28 Vielyana Kim

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Over the coming weeks, communing members of Riverwood will have the opportunity to submit names of individuals to potentially serve as church officers. Prior to nominating someone to the officer of Ruling Elder or Deacon, take time to reflect on the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and prayerfully consider if that person is a good candidate. Also, please share with the individual your desire to nominate him and ask if he would be willing to participate in the training and examination process that would follow this nomination.

CHANGES AT RIVERWOOD

Corporate Worship

For the next two Sundays (March 22 & 29), we will be offering a livestream worship service through the church's website. This service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and participants are encouraged to click on the provided link a few minutes before time. A bulletin will be provided on the website for you to follow along with the morning liturgy. In order for you to worship through the giving of tithes and offerings, checks can be mailed to the church address or you can use the online giving link that will be provided on the church website.

Other church-related activities

All group activities will be suspended until the end of March. This includes Pier groups, Sunday School, Youth group, Bible studies, and Children's ministry activities.

Shepherding/Pastoral Care

In the coming days, church members should expect to hear from their Shepherding Elder. He will be reaching out to ask how you are doing physically and spiritually. He will want to pray with you and find out how to best help you grow in grace and know the peace of Christ during this unsettling time. Also, if you would like an in person visit, I (Jeff) would be happy to come to you so we can meet and pray together. Please let me or your Elder know if you have a need that the church body can assist in providing.

Church-wide Care

During this time of increased separation, it is important for the entire church to live out our unity and fellowship by keeping in contact with one another. Please take time to call other members of your Pier group, bible study, or the person who sits near you in worship, and share with one another what God has been teaching you that you may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith (Romans 1:12).

At the end of March, the Session will meet again and reassess how the church will move forward. We are praying for you as we rest in Christ with you.