

REFLECTIONS

True spiritual peace is completely different from the superficial, ephemeral, fragile human peace. It is the deep, settled confidence that all is well between the soul and God because of His loving, sovereign control of one's life both in time and eternity. That calm assurance is based on the knowledge that sins are forgiven, blessing is present, good is abundant even in trouble, and heaven is ahead. The peace that God gives His beloved children as their possession and privilege has nothing to do with the circumstances of life.

John MacArthur

The war is over. The alienation and divine displeasure toward us because of our sin have been removed. We are no longer objects of wrath. We have peace with God whether we realize it or not. However, to the extent that we understand and believe the truth regarding justification, we will experience a subjective peace – that is, a sense of peace within our souls. We will know that we have been bought from a state of condemnation and the prospect of eternal judgment into a state of forgiveness and favor with God.

Jerry Bridges, *The Gospel for Real Life*

The sum total of gospel blessings can be expressed by *peace*.

F. F. Bruce

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

May 16, 2021 • 8:30 & 11:00 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin
Joann Williams, piano

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Clay Staggs
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 56*

Pastor: My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!
I will sing and make melody!

**All: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.**

Pastor: For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

**All: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 7 "From All That Dwell below the Skies"

From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise;
let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song;
to every land the strains belong.
In cheerful sound all voices raise
and fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord;
eternal truth attends your word.
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more.

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: *Jeremiah 17:5-10*

⁵Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. ⁶He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.” ⁹The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Heavenly Father, we humbly pray to you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess that we have sinned against you by trusting in ourselves and our strength. We have been deceived into thinking our hope for life, joy, significance, and peace is found in our accomplishments and what we can attain for ourselves. Please forgive us for our pride. Our sin has resulted in our lives being plagued with fear and anxiety instead of confidence and trust in you. Please have mercy on us and give us repentant hearts and renewed minds. Search our hearts, test our minds, and lead us on new paths. Help us to see you in your strength and majesty, your power and kindness, and your goodness and love. Plant us by the refreshing streams of your grace that we may be deeply rooted and rest securely in you. We ask all of this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 5*

- Pastor: Hear the good news for those who have been justified by faith in Jesus Christ and now have peace with God through him. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...
- All: **God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- Pastor: Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
- All: **For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.**
- Pastor: In Jesus Christ your sins have been forgiven and you have been reconciled to God. May the peace of Christ be with you all.
- All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 252 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God:
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small,
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

OFFERING

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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: “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.

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II. The provision of God's presence

III. The abiding grace of the Lord Jesus Christ lavished on us

COMMUNION

HYMN: 615 “Come, Ye Disconsolate, Where’er Ye Languish”

Come, ye disconsolate, where’er ye languish,
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel:
here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;
earth has no sorrows that heav’n cannot heal.

Joy of the comfortless, light of the straying,
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!
Here speaks the Comforter, in mercy saying,
“Earth has no sorrows that heav’n cannot cure.”

Here see the Bread of Life; see waters flowing
forth from the throne of God, pure from above:
come to the feast prepared; come, ever knowing
earth has no sorrows but heav’n can remove.

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION: *Psalm 103:1-5; 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, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!**

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: 701 “Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!”

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
redeemed thro’ his infinite mercy,
his child, and forever, I am.

Chorus:

Redeemed, redeemed,
redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
redeemed thro’ his infinite mercy,
his child, and forever, I am.

Redeemed and so happy in Jesus,
no language my rapture can tell;
I know that the light of his presence
with me doth continually dwell.

I think of my blessed Redeemer,
I think of him all the day long;
I sing, for I cannot be silent;
his love is the theme of my song.

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 BIRTHDAY

May 17 Ginny Nippert

May 21 Hansen Tulipan

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club & Youth Group will meet tonight at 5:30pm.

SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, May 19, at 6:30pm for their monthly meeting.

DEACON'S FUND OFFERING

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our Deacons have an offering to replenish funds in an account used exclusively for mercy ministry needs. This fund has enabled our Diaconate to extend the kingdom of God to many within our community. On Sunday, May 30, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, May 23: Last Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group meetings until the fall

May 31-June 5: Ridge Haven Camp

July 6-9: Vacation Bible School

Saturday, July 24: Family Fun Day at Lake Lurleen

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2021

Operating Income:	\$144,284.97
Operating Expense*:	\$149,122.85
Net Income:	(\$4,837.88)
Designated gifts:	\$37,133.00
Building loan balance:	\$687,455.35

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*