

REFLECTIONS

This may seem to be a contradiction; but so it is, that most commonly those persons who have no business of their own to do, or who neglect it, busy themselves in other men's matters. If we are idle, the devil and a corrupt heart will soon find us something to do. The mind of man is a busy thing; if it be not employed in doing good, it will be doing evil.

Matthew Henry

The Christian way is different: harder and easier. Christ says, "Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. I don't want to drill the tooth, or crown it, or stop it, but to have it out. Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires, which you think innocent, as well as the ones you think wicked—the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours."

C. S. Lewis

Our mission does not end at the threshold of the church door, nor is it limited to matters the world calls "religious." All of culture is our domain, all enterprises are of our interest, and all that is beautiful is ours to enjoy and cultivate. All that is here he is head over. Therefore, we have a right to be concerned for it and to bring it under the lordship of him for whom it was created and for whose glory it is designed.

Bryan Chapell

True ministry goes far beyond the giving of gifts. It requires the giving of self. That is the way of him who did not cling to his privileges but emptied himself to share our struggles. When God's way becomes known to us, and practiced by us, hope emerges.

Henri Nouwen

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

May 2, 2021 • 8:30 & 11:00 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Fifth 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 90*

Pastor: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

All: **Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

Pastor: Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

All: **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 30 “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” st. 1-4, 7

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come:
O be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

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: *Deuteronomy 5:12-15*

¹²“Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Heavenly Father, as we seek to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel, it is your Word that sheds light on our path. You desire for us to order our steps according to your Word. We confess that we have instead followed our own worldly passions and desires. You have commanded us to set apart a day for rest, a holy Sabbath unto you, the Lord our God. But we are restless and faithless, choosing to seek happiness and hope in our striving instead of resting in your goodness. Please forgive us and teach us to rest in you. Thank you for providing for our eternal peace through the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we learn to rest in him, help us to then work with diligence and joy as we serve in his name and for his glory. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Ephesians 1*

Pastor: Hear the good news of salvation for all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will. In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and God's grace has been lavished upon you. The peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: “Jesus, Strong and Kind”

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.

Chorus:

For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross. He will come to me.

Words and music by Colin Buchanan, Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, & Rich Thompson
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COMMITMENT

OFFERING

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

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: “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: 337 “O Spirit of the Living God”

O Spirit of the living God,
in all thy plenitude of grace,
where-e'er the foot of man hath trod,
descend on our apostate race.

Give tongues of fire and hearts of love
to preach the reconciling word;
give pow'r and unction from above,
when-e'er the joyful sound is heard.

Be darkness, at thy coming, light;
confusion, order in thy path;
souls without strength inspire with might;
bid mercy triumph over wrath.

O Spirit of the Lord, prepare
all the round earth her God to meet;
breathe thou abroad like morning air,
till hearts of stone begin to beat.

Baptize the nations; far and nigh
the triumphs of the cross record;
the name of Jesus glorify,
till every kindred call him Lord.

God from eternity hath willed
all flesh shall his salvation see:
so be the Father's love fulfilled,
the Savior's sufferings crowned through thee.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

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

SERMON: “Righteousness Works, part 2” Rev. Jeff Pate

SERMON NOTES:

1. Review: a loving command written with apostolic authority.

2. Problem: some professing Christians in Thessalonica were refusing to work.
 - A. Not unable to work, but unwilling to work

“This may seem to be a contradiction; but so it is, that most commonly those persons who have no business of their own to do, or who neglect it, busy themselves in other men's matters. If we are idle, the devil and a corrupt heart will soon find us something to do. The mind of man is a busy thing; if it be not employed in doing good, it will be doing evil.”

Matthew Henry

- B. Applying biblical wisdom.

A worker's appetite works for him; his mouth urges him on. Proverbs 16:26

- 3. Why is it important to work?
 - A. We were made in God's image.
 - B. Work is part of paradise.
 - C. Work is included in the moral law written on our hearts.

“...the cycle of labour is as irreversible as the cycle of rest. The law of God cannot be violated with impunity. We can be quite certain that a great many of our physical and economic ills proceed from failure to observe the weekly day of rest. But we can also be quite sure that a great many of our economic ills arise from our failure to recognize the sanctity of six days of labour. Labour is not only a duty; it is a blessing.”

John Murray, *Principles of Conduct*

- 4. How can we think about work in the right ways?
 - A. Rejoicing in God's work and power
 - B. Understanding our dependency
 - C. Hearing the warnings
 - D. Observing the glorious guardrails

COMMUNION

HYMN: 585 "Take My Life, and Let It Be" st. 1-3

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

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: 585 “Take My Life, and Let It Be” st. 4-6

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose,
ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take my self, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

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 2 Nora Claire Bedsole
May 3 Aaron Powers
May 4 Chris Gill
May 7 Edmund Henry

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club will meet tonight at 5:30pm. No Youth Group tonight.

LAST DAY OF CATECHISM

This Wednesday, May 5, is the final meeting for children's catechism this year. Classes will resume in the fall.

ATTENTION MEN

The Thursday Men's lunch resumes this Thursday, May 6, after a year long absence. We will meet at Baumhower's on Julia Tutwiler Dr. next to Hampton Inn at 11:00 am. This is a time to enjoy good food (Dutch treat) and conversation. If you plan to attend, please call or text Bob Prince at (205) 799-4315.

THANK YOU – RIDGE HAVEN DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Ridge Haven Scholarship Fund. Your support is deeply appreciated. Please be in prayer for the following campers as they prepare to go and that all preparations go smoothly (* indicates a first-time camper): *Lundy, Emory, Peter, Hansen*, Abigail, Caleb, Ava Grace*, Warren, Ruthie*, and Thomas*. If you have any questions regarding Ridge Haven Camp or how you can support these children, please contact Joann Williams.

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*