

REFLECTIONS

When Holy God draws near in true revival, people come under terrible conviction of sin. The outstanding feature of spiritual awakening has been the profound consciousness of the Presence and holiness of God.

Henry Blackaby

If you have never been hurt by a word from God, it is probable that you have never heard God speak.

Amy Carmichael

Indeed this is one of the greatest mysteries in the world – namely, that a righteousness that resides with a Person in heaven should justify me, a sinner on earth.

John Bunyan

A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in the little things is a great thing.

Hudson Taylor

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

First Sunday after Pentecost

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 5*

Pastor: O Lord, you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful may not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

All: But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in fear of you.

Pastor: Let all who take refuge in you, O Lord, rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.

All: For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield.

Pastor: Christians, baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, come, let us worship.

HYMN: 104 "We Lift Up as Our Shield God's Name"

We lift up as our shield God's name,
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same:
the Three in One and One in Three,
our Rock and Tower, God of Light,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word;
we claim the name of grace and might:
salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Immanuel, incarnate Lord,
from Mary's womb was given breath,
was baptized at the Jordan's ford,
and gave his life to conquer death.
He rose triumphant from the tomb,
was lifted to the Father's throne
to come on God's dread day of doom
and bring salvation for his own.

By faith we claim his grace today:
the pow'r of God to hold and lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay,
his ear to hearken to our need;
the wisdom of our God to teach,
his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the word of God to give us speech,
his heav'nly host to be our guard.

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 3:19-25*

¹⁹“I said, How I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. ²⁰Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the Lord.” ²¹A voice on the bare heights is heard, the weeping and pleading of Israel's sons because they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the Lord their God. ²²“Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness.” “Behold, we come to you, for you are the Lord our God. ²³Truly the hills are a delusion, the orgies on the mountains. Truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel. ²⁴But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured all for which our fathers labored, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. ²⁵Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us. For we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and we have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Almighty God, we humbly confess that like the Israelites long ago, we have been faithless. We have turned from following you and have perverted our way. Though we have the gift of your Word we have forgotten you, the Lord our God. Please have mercy on us. We have sinned against you and our shame covers us. Please forgive us. We come to you now, confessing that truly in the Lord our God is salvation. We come to you now only because you came to us first. Our hope is in the One who took on flesh and bore our sins in his body on the tree. It is in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God who came to take away our sins, that we pray. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

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

Pastor: Hear the good news and believe! *You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Christ died for your sins and God raised him from the dead. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! The peace of Christ be with you all.*

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 181 “We Come, O Christ, to You”

We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,
by whom all things consist, in whom all life began:
in you alone we live and move, and have our being in your love.

You are the Way to God, your blood our ransom paid;
in you we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.
Before the throne absolved we stand, your love has met your law's demand.

You are the living Truth! All wisdom dwells in you,
the Source of every skill, the one eternal TRUE!
O great I AM! In you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true Life, to know you is to live
the more abundant life that earth can never give:
O risen Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life renew!

We worship you, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King,
to you our youth and strength adoringly we bring:
so fill our hearts, that all may view your life in us, and turn to you.

COMMITMENT

OFFERING

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Westminster Confession of Faith XI.1 "Justification"

Leader: What do you believe concerning justification?

All: Those whom God effectually calls he also freely justifies, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins and by accounting and accepting them as righteous. It is not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone that they are justified. It is not by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other act of Christian obedience to them, as their righteousness, but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ to them who receive and rest on him and his righteousness by faith. Men do not have this faith of themselves; it is the gift of God.

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.

MISSIONS MOMENT

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: “For Your Gift of God the Spirit”
(sung to the tune of “All the Way My Savior Leads Me”)

For your gift of God the Spirit, pow’r to make our lives anew,
pledge of life and hope of glory, Savior, we would worship you.
Crowning gift of resurrection sent from your ascended throne,
fullness of the very Godhead, come to make your life our own.

He who in creation’s dawning brooded on the lifeless deep,
still across our nature’s darkness moves to wake our souls from sleep,
moves to stir, to draw, to quicken, thrusts us through with sense of sin;
brings to birth and seals and fills us – saving Advocate within.

He, himself the living Author, wakes to life the sacred Word,
reads with us its holy pages and reveals our risen Lord.
He it is who works within us, teaching rebel hearts to pray,
he whose holy intercessions rise for us both night and day.

He, the mighty God, indwells us; his to strengthen, help, empow’r;
his to overcome the tempter, ours to call in danger’s hour.
In his strength we dare to battle all the raging hosts of sin,
and by him alone we conquer foes without and foes within.

Father, grant your Holy Spirit in our hearts may rule today,
grieved not, quenched not, but unhindered, work in us his sovereign way.
Fill us with your holy fullness, God the Father, Spirit, Son;
in us, through us, then, forever, shall your perfect will be done.

- B. Contend for the fruit of faith—orthopraxy.

“I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”

1 Timothy 3:14-16

“The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.”

Titus 3:8

2. As Christians, we also need to consider what not to contend for.

- A. Prestige and power

Mark 9:33-35

- B. Opinions

Romans 14:1

“...I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”

Colossians 1:25-28

COMMUNION

HYMN: “Yet Not I, but through Christ in Me”

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer, there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: “All is mine!” yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Savior he will stay.

I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me, through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome, yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven. The future sure, the price it has been paid,
for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon and he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated. Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: “I am free!” yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for he has said that he will bring me home.

And day by day I know he will renew me, until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, All the glory ever more to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: “Yet not I but through Christ in me!”

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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: “O Church, Arise”

O church, arise, and put your armor on; hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war – to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure;
And Christ will have the prize for which He died: an inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away, and Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride; give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day when with Christ we stand in Glory.

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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 4 Allen Powers
June 4 Eliza Kate Gill
June 5 Katharine Bedsole

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

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. This morning, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

RIDGE HAVEN CAMPERS

Please pray for our campers this week. They leave tomorrow at 6:00am and return June 5.

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 next Sunday, June 6, 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 will be offering a new member's class during the Sunday school hour starting on June 6. The class will last approximately 6 weeks and will meet in the conference room in the Administration building at 9:45 a.m.

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