

People who have only a little dinky bit of sin can only visualize a little dinky cross. Those who are forgiven much, as the Gospel says, "love much."

Frederica Matthewes-Green

Nothing can be more cruel than the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin. When we allow nothing but God's Word to stand between us, judging and helping, it is a service of mercy, an ultimate offer of genuine community. Then it is not we who are judging; God alone judges, and God's judgment is helpful and healing.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The underlying purpose in every act of discipline, of course, must be love: love for the individual, love for the church, love for the watching world, love for Christ. God, after all, "disciplines the one He loves"; and "He chastens everyone He accepts as His son" (Heb. 12:6). By abstaining from discipline, we claim that we love better than God.

Jonathan Leeman

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

May 9, 2021 • 8:30 & 11:00 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin

Lorrie Pate, 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 97*

Pastor: The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

**All: Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.**

Pastor: O you who love the Lord, hate evil!
He preserves the lives of his saints;
he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

**All: Light is sown for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.**

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 16 "Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord" st. 1-4

Come, let us sing unto the Lord
new songs of praise with sweet accord;
for wonders great by him are done,
his hand and arm have vict'ry won.

The great salvation of our God
is seen through all the earth abroad;
before the heathen's wond'ring sight
he has revealed his truth and right.

He called to mind his truth and grace
in promise made to Israel's race;
and unto earth's remotest bound
glad tidings of salvation sound.

All lands, to God lift up your voice;
sing praise to him, with shouts rejoice;
with voice of joy and loud acclaim
let all unite and praise his name.

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: *Proverbs 3:1-12*

¹My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, ²for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. ³Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. ⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ⁷Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. ⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. ¹¹My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, ¹²for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Hebrews 12*

Pastor: Lift your heads and “look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” The founder and perfecter of your faith endured the cross for you and through faith in him your sins are forgiven. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: “In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine - bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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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:

from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions & Answers 82, 84-87*

- Leader: Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?
People: **No mere man, since the fall, is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but does daily break them in thought, word, and deed.**
- Leader: What does every sin deserve?
People: **Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.**
- Leader: What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?
People: **To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.**
- Leader: What is faith in Jesus Christ?
People: **Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.**
- Leader: What is repentance unto life?
People: **Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.**

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: 51 "O Jehovah, Hear My Words" st. 1-3, 5

O Jehovah, hear my words,
to my thoughts attentive be;
hear my cry, my King, my God,
I will make my prayer to thee.
With the morning light, O Lord,
thou shalt hear my voice arise,
and expectant I will bring
prayer as morning sacrifice.

Thou, Jehovah, art a God
who delightest not in sin;
evil shall not dwell with thee,
nor the proud thy favor win.
Evildoers thou dost hate,
lying tongues thou wilt defeat;
God abhors the man who loves
violence and base deceit.

In the fulness of thy grace
to thy house I will repair;
bowing toward thy holy place,
in thy fear to worship there.
Lead me in thy righteousness,
let my foes assail in vain;
lest my feet be turned aside,
make thy way before me plain.

O let all that trust thy care
ever glad and joyful be;
let them joy who love thy name,
safely guarded, Lord, by thee.
For a blessing from thy store
to the righteous thou wilt yield;
thou wilt compass him about
with thy favor as a shield.

III. Discipleship involves imitation.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1,2

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Hebrews 13:7

IV. Loving discipline sometimes requires taking painful steps.

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23,24

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Matthew 18:15-17

V. Be sure to keep an eye on the motivations and goals of discipline.

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. Romans 16:17

For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11

HYMN: 16 “Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord” st. 5-7

Praise God with harp, with harp sing praise,
with voice of psalms his glory raise;
with trumpets, cornets, gladly sing
and shout before the Lord, the King.

Let earth be glad, let billows roar
and all that dwell from shore to shore;
let floods clap hands with one accord,
let hills rejoice before the Lord.

For lo, he comes; at his command
all nations shall in judgment stand;
in justice robed and throned in light,
the Lord shall judge, dispensing right.

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: 342 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion’s help forever, and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city, dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring in glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness hear thy people as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls alway.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee forever with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory, while unending ages run.

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 10 Heather Crawford
May 11 James Urban
May 12 Jennifer Tullidge

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

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

ATTENTION MEN

The Thursday Men's lunch resumed last week after a year long absence. We 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, May 19, 6:30pm: Session & Diaconate Meeting
Sunday, May 23: Last Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group meetings until the fall
Sunday, May 30: Deacon's Fund Offering
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*