

Since believers are called to be like God, they are called to rest from their work, for the story of creation makes it clear that God himself ceases from work. After six days of creation, God “rested from all his work” (Genesis 2:3) and “was refreshed” by that rest (Exodus 31:17). Human life is incomplete if it does not follow the lead of God in balancing work with leisure.

Leland Ryken

Maybe that's what God requires most of us: our attention. Indeed this is the essence of a Sabbath heart: paying attention. It is being fully present, wholly awake, in each moment. ...True attentiveness burns away layers of indifference and ennui and distraction—all those attitudes that blend our days into a monochrome sameness—and reveals what's hidden beneath: the staggering surprise and infinite variety of every last little thing.

Mark Buchanan

from *The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul By Restoring Sabbath*

Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.

Henry Ward Beecher

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and forever.

Thomas Cranmer

from *The Book of Common Prayer* (1549)

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 22, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Jimmy Hopper
Tindol Pate, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers
Ginny Coleman, 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 104*

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great!

All: You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

Pastor: From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

All: You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

Pastor: May the glory of the Lord endure forever! Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 716 “Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise!
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.

By him the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.
He filleth with his fullness all things with large increase;
he crowns the year with goodness, with plenty, and with peace.

Heap on his sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls he died to save.
Your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

To God the gracious Father, who made us “very good,”
to Christ, who, when we wandered, restored us with his blood,
and to the Holy Spirit, who doth upon us pour
his blessed dews and sunshine, be praise forevermore.

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: *Exodus 20:8-11*

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but 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, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

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

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

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 that we 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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Hebrews 4*

Pastor: While the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of us should seem to fail to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.

All: **We who have believed enter that rest.**

Pastor: So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Through faith that rests in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and you have peace with God. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION

HYMN: 703 "Loved with Everlasting Love"

Loved with everlasting love, drawn by grace that love to know,
Spirit sent from Christ above, thou dost witness it is so.
O this full and precious peace from his presence all divine;
in a love that cannot cease, I am his and he is mine;
in a love that cannot cease, I am his and he is mine.

Heav'n above is deeper blue, earth around is sweeter green,
that which glows in every hue Christ-less eyes have never seen.
Birds in song his glories show, flow'rs with richer beauties shine
since I know, as now I know, I am his and he is mine;
since I know, as now I know, I am his and he is mine.

Taste the goodness of the Lord: welcomed home to his embrace,
all his love as blood outpoured seals the pardon of his grace.
Can I doubt his love for me, when I trace that love's design?
By the cross of Calvary I am his and he is mine;
by the cross of Calvary I am his and he is mine.

His forever, only his – who the Lord and me shall part?
Ah, with what a rest of bliss Christ can fill the loving heart.
Heav'n and earth may fade and flee, firstborn light in gloom decline,
but while God and I shall be, I am his and he is mine;
but while God and I shall be, I am his and he is mine.

COMMITMENT

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

PREACHING OF THE WORD

HYMN: 359 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before the Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives our courage by the way,
while each in expectation lives, and longs to see the day.

From sorrow, toil and pain, and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

SCRIPTURE: *1 Thessalonians 4:9-12*

⁹Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, ¹⁰for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, ¹¹and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹²so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

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

SERMON: “Uncommon Core”

Rev. Jeff Pate

Writing His Word on our hearts: 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10

⁸“But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.”

I. "Love for one another" is a core subject in a Christian's education.

II. The goal isn't to be graduated students, but growing practitioners.

A. Keeping calm

B. Carrying on

C. With working hands

III. This is a purposeful and "well-fashioned" education.

COMMUNION

HYMN: 585 “Take My Life, and Let It Be”

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 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.

RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

All: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

All: The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.

Pastor: Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.

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: 584 "Go, Labor On"

Go, labor on: spend and be spent,
your joy to do the Father's will;
it is the way the Master went;
should not the servant tread it still?

Go, labor on while it is day:
the world's dark night is hast'ning on.
Speed, speed your work, cast sloth away;
it is not thus that souls are won.

Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray;
be wise the erring soul to win;
go forth into the world's highway,
compel the wand'rer to come in.

Toil on, and in your toil rejoice;
for toil come rest, for exile home;
soon shall you hear the Bridegroom's voice,
the midnight peal, "Behold, I come."

BENEDICTION

WE GIVE THANKS

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

November 28 Bob Prince

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

WE GIVE THANKS

Traditionally, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Riverwood has gathered for lunch and a service of Scripture, song, and individual expressions of thanksgiving for God's blessings in our lives. This year, we will not meet for lunch but will still provide an opportunity for you to express your gratitude for God's goodness. This morning, following the benediction and before we sing "Lift High the Cross" we will take a few minutes for you to share with the congregation your words of thanksgiving to God.

NO COVENANT KIDS CLUB OR YOUTH GROUP

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will NOT meet tonight.

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. Next Sunday, November 29, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANGEL TREE

Angel Tree tags are available now in the narthex. What is Angel Tree? It is a ministry to children of incarcerated parents. Through this program, we as a church can embrace children in our community by providing them with a Christmas gift, given in love, on behalf of their parent. Each gift presents an opportunity to share the love and hope of Christ. Please prayerfully consider participating in this program by doing any of the following:

1. Purchasing presents (one clothing and one toy item) for a child from the tree.
2. Making a donation designated "Angel Tree Gift" and we will have a shopper purchase the gifts for you.
3. Providing non-perishable food items for food baskets for each family.
4. Help deliver the packages to the families on Dec. 21 or 22.

For more information, contact Joann Williams (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND FUN DAY

Christmas Craft and Fun Day will be Saturday, December 12 from 1:00-3:00pm. This day is for children from 4 – 12 years old. We will have crafts, games, the Christmas story, music, and snacks. To assist in planning this year, please let Joann know that your child will be attending. Please prayerfully consider participating in this program by:

1. Providing snacks and drink boxes.
2. Assisting Joann in pre-packaging craft bags to be used that day.
3. Helping on December 12.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 2020:

Operating Income:	\$315,509.40
Operating Expense*:	\$337,086.19
Net Income:	(\$21,576.79)
Designated gifts:	\$86,674.43
Building loan balance:	\$731,523.45

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*