

All members of our fallen race who, because they do not know Jesus Christ, still live under the power of that self-deifying, anti-God syndrome in our spiritual system which the Bible calls sin, are living lives that are qualitatively subhuman. Sin in our minds says otherwise, but in this, as always, sin is lying.

J. I. Packer
Rediscovering Holiness

Christ led a life that brought pleasure to God, and taught his followers how to live so as to please God. The apostles imposed no arbitrary controls on their converts to prevent them from realizing their Christian freedom; they taught Christ's way of freedom in which they would find deliverance from the fetters of old sinful habits. The “charges” which they gave them in the name of Christ were not external regulations to which they must painstakingly conform; they were part of the outworking of the new life maintained within them by the Holy Spirit.

F. F. Bruce

It is time for Christians to face up to our responsibility for holiness. Too often we say we are “defeated” by this or that sin. No, we are not defeated; we are simply disobedient.

Jerry Bridges
The Pursuit of Holiness

The life of holiness is the life of faith in which the believer, with a deepening knowledge of his own sin and helplessness apart from Christ, increasingly casts himself upon the Lord, and seeks the power of the Spirit and the wisdom and comfort of the Bible to battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Edmund P. Clowney

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton
Lorrie Pate, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Clay Staggs
Dr. 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 98*

Pastor: O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

People: **The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Come, let us worship Him!

HYMN: 16 “Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord”

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.

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.

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: *Psalms 139:1-12*

¹O Lord, you have searched me and known me! ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. ⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," ¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

O Lord, we confess that nothing is hidden from you. In you, all things are known. We look at our hearts, our hearts of darkness, and we dread the light of your presence. You are too high, too wonderful, and too holy for us to contemplate. We confess our total inadequacy to stand before you in and off ourselves. We confess our inability to even desire repentance without being awakened by the power of your Holy Spirit. But through your grace we come before you this day in repentance only in the power of your Spirit and only because of the glorious work of your Son. He alone has given us the assurance that we can stand before you. Create in us a heart that seeks repentance, that seeks you alone. Grant us your grace and your peace and make us strong to walk in your ways. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Galatians 4:4-7*

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Pastor: Through Christ alone we have peace with God. May his peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

CONFESSION

HYMN: “Christ Is Mine Forevermore”

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him.
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings.
But mine is hope in my Redeemer, though I fall, his love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore.

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood.
Through the valley I must travel, where I see no earthly good.
But mine is peace that flows from heaven, and the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes his work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for his name.
But mine is armour for this battle, strong enough to last the war.
And he has said he will deliver safely to the golden shore.

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure, Christ is mine forevermore.

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and 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.*

COMMITMENT

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: 378 “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand th’eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with thee the royal wine of heav’n;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv’n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heav’nly table spread for me:
here let me feast, and, feasting, still prolong
the brief, bright hour of fellowship with thee.

I have no help but thine, nor do I need
another arm save thine to lean upon:
it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
my strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;
mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood;
here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace,
thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

2. The Guidance for Sanctification

3. The Architect of Sanctification

4. The Hope of Sanctification

COMMUNION

HYMN: 529 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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: 580 “Lead On, O King Eternal”

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home;
through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin’s fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy, the heav’nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears;
for gladness breaks like morning where’er thy face appears;
thy cross is lifted o’er us; we journey in its light:
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

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

November 12 Kevin Skelton

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

COVENANT KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group meet tonight. Covenant Kids Club meets from 5:30-6:30pm behind the Fellowship Hall, and Youth Group meets from 5:30-7:00pm behind the Administration Building.

OFFICER MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, November 11 at 6:30pm for their monthly meeting.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you are interested in membership at Riverwood, please contact Jimmy Hopper (jimhop7@att.net).

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*