

The phrase (*the churches of God in Christ Jesus*) denotes the fellowship which binds together Christian churches as surely as it does individual Christians; their life is caught up into, and sustained from, the life of the risen Christ.

F. F. Bruce

Word Biblical Commentary, 1st and 2nd Thessalonians

The Spirit applies words and thoughts of Scripture to the heart so powerfully and authoritatively that the believer is left in no doubt that they are being spoken by God to him.

J. I. Packer

A Quest for Godliness

The Bible must be the invention either of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God. It could not be the invention of good men or angels, for they neither would nor could make a book and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying 'Thus saith the Lord' when it was their own invention. It could not be the invention of bad men or devils, for they could not make a book that commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell for all eternity. Therefore the Bible must be given by Divine inspiration.

John Wesley

The reasoning that says, "Either I am elect or not; either way it is pointless to attend to the Word of God," makes the very same mistake as does the belief that God's eternal election makes preaching unnecessary. We separate the end of election – renewal in the image of Christ – from those means of communicating the gospel through preaching and the other ways God has ordained. It divides what God has, in fact, united. "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

Dr. Paul Helm, "The Sovereignty of God and Evangelism"
Tabletalk Magazine

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 11, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

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

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
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 65*

Pastor: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.

All: O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.
When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.

Pastor: Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!

All: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 376 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!

Lord, my God, I come before thee, come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter thou, let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken, let me keep thy gift divine,
howso'er temptations thicken; may thy Word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life, as my comfort in my strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows, here is balm for all our woes.

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: *Isaiah 55:6-13*

⁶“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN: *from Isaiah 30*

Pastor: In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

All: Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love, all by neglecting your Word. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1*

Pastor: God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

All: **For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

Pastor: Therefore, since you have been justified through faith, you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 508 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me!
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find:
raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.

Just and holy is thy name; I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am, thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity.

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 Confession of Faith*, Chapter 1

All: Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testaments...All which are given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life...The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God...our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

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: “Holy Spirit”

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul;
Bring the presence of the Risen Lord, to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for Your purity; Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within; may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev’ry sin in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least; gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, giving life to all that God has made.
Show Your power once again on earth, cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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SCRIPTURE: *1 Thessalonians 2:13-16*

¹³And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. ¹⁴For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, ¹⁵who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind ¹⁶by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

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

SERMON:

“It Is or It Isn’t”

Rev. Jeff Pate

1. Receiving the Word for what it really is

2. Being changed by what the Word does

3. Hating the world by silencing the Word

4. The Word that saves

HYMN: 146 "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
throughout the sacred page I seek thee, Lord,
my spirit pants for thee, O living Word.

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All in all.

Thou art the Bread of Life, O Lord, to me,
thy holy Word the truth that saveth me;
give me to eat and live with thee above;
teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.

O send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
that he may touch mine eyes and make me see:
show me the truth concealed within thy Word,
and in thy Book revealed I see the Lord.

RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: With these words our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return in glory.

All: **In this supper God declares to us that our sins are completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the cross once for all.**

Pastor: He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who is bodily now in heaven at the right hand of the Father.

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: 179 “Hallelujah! Thine the Glory”

We praise thee, O God! for the days of our youth,
for the bright lamp that shineth – the Word of thy truth.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! thine the glory, hallelujah! we sing;
hallelujah! thine the glory, our praise now we bring.

We praise thee, O God! for the Son of thy love,
for Jesus who died and is now gone above.

(Chorus)

We praise thee, O God! for thy Spirit of light,
who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night.

(Chorus)

All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
who has borne all our sins and has cleansed ev'ry stain!

(Chorus)

BENEDICTION

DISMISSING HYMN: 263 “Lift High the Cross” v. 4

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name.

4. Thy kingdom come, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

(Refrain)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

October 14 John Graham
October 15 Jenny Zheng
October 16 Debbie Jones
October 16 Meredith Patridge

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

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, October 14 at 6:30pm for their monthly meeting.

REFORMATION CELEBRATION

On Sunday, October 25 from 4:00-6:00pm, Riverwood's annual Reformation Celebration will be held completely outdoors on the church property. There will be activities and treat bags for children. Children (and adults) may wear a costume, just nothing macabre or scary. We will share a chili dinner, with hotdogs also available for anyone who does not like chili. Food will be served by masked and gloved volunteers, and family groups will be served together. See the link in your email announcements to sign up to bring food. Questions? Contact Joann Williams.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through September 2020:

Operating Income:	\$283,281.27
Operating Expense*:	\$311,112.42
Net Income:	(\$27,831.15)
Designated gifts:	\$69,174.43
Building loan balance:	\$737,268.31

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*