

REFLECTIONS

We are called to be disciples. And for us, as for our Master, it will mean a mixture of joy and pain, endurance and delight. It cannot possibly be easy. Jesus is looking for disciples who can face and overcome hard times from whatever source they come.

Michael Green
from *Thirty Years That Changed the World*

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
from *The Cost of Discipleship*

As we arrive at Jerusalem with Jesus, the question presses upon us. Are we going along for the trip in the hope that Jesus will fulfill some of our hopes and desires? Are we ready to sing a psalm of praise, but only as long as Jesus seems to be doing what we want? The long and dusty pilgrim way of our lives gives most of us plenty of time to sort out our motives for following Jesus in the first place. Are we ready not only to spread our cloaks on the road in front of him, to do the showy and flamboyant thing, but also to follow him into trouble, controversy, trial and death?

N. T. Wright
from *Luke for Everyone*

If anyone has an ear, let him hear:
If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.
Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.
Revelation 13:9-10
To the persecuted Church

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 17, 2021 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Dusty Sheppard
Joann Williams & Noah Parker, 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 27 & John 4*

Minister: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.
The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

People: **We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in his holy temple.
We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

People: **Teach us your ways and make straight our paths,
in this hour of worship and always.**

Minister: Come! Come and worship!

HYMN: 115 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing
 alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
 O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear,
 alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest man both warmth and light,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
 O sing ye, alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
 O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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 6:1-5*

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN: *adapted from Isaiah 59*

All: Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but our iniquities have separated us from God and our sins have hidden his face from us so that he does not hear. Our mouths are filled with anger, our lips are quick to speak lies and our eyes are filled with illicit and unnecessary desires. Our feet are swift to run to evil and our thoughts are the thoughts of iniquity. We have lost our way and are far from the way of peace. The roads we travel are crooked and desperate. We hope for light, but behold darkness. Lord, only you can intercede and bring health to us. Only your strong arm can bring us salvation. May the Redeemer of Zion save us.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Isaiah 6:6-7*

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

Pastor: The Lord Jesus, God Himself, has atoned for our sins by offering up his own life as a sacrifice for our sins. Through this atonement, we are at peace with God.

People: **Praise be to God!**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 306 "Jesus, My Great High Priest"

Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood and died;
my guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside.
His pow'rful blood did once atone, and now it pleads before the throne.

To this dear Surety's hand will I commit my cause;
he answers and fulfils his Father's broken laws.
Behold my soul at freedom set; my Surety paid the dreadful debt.

My Advocate appears for my defense on high;
the Father bows his ears and lays his thunder by.
Not all that hell or sin can say shall turn his heart, his love, away.

Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell unknown
put their most dreadful forms of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe, for Christ displays his conqu'ring pow'r and guardian grace.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Heidelberg Catechism, Questions and Answers 29 & 31

Leader: Why is the Son of God called “Jesus,” meaning “savior”?

All: Because he saves us from our sins, and because salvation should not be sought and cannot be found in anyone else.

Leader: Why is he called “Christ,” meaning “anointed”?

All: Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.

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: 85 “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want; he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, e’en for his own name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me:
and in God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Luke 14:25-35*

²⁵Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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

SERMON: “The Demands of Discipleship”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 707 “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken” st. 1-3

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee;
destitute, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish ev’ry fond ambition, all I’ve sought or hoped or known;
yet how rich is my condition, God and heav’n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior too;
human hearts and looks deceive me; thou art not, like man, untrue;
and, while thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
foes may hate and friends may shun me; show thy face, and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, ‘twill but drive me to thy breast;
life with trials hard may press me, heav’n will bring me sweeter rest.
O ‘tis not in grief to harm me while thy love is left to me;
O ‘twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with thee.

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION: *adapted from the Belgic Confession, Article 35*

Pastor: Our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper to nourish and sustain those who are born again and ingrafted into his family: his church. Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread as the sacrament of his body and wine as the sacrament of his blood.

People: **Just as truly as we take and hold the sacraments in our hands and eat and drink it in our mouths, by which our life is then sustained, so truly we receive into our souls, for our spiritual life, the true body and true blood of Christ, our only Savior. We receive these by faith, which is the hand and mouth of our souls.**

Pastor: This banquet is a spiritual table at which Christ communicates himself to us with all his benefits.

People: **By use of this holy sacrament, we are moved to a fervent love of God and of our neighbors.**

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: 707 “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken” st. 4-5

Take, my soul, thy full salvation, rise o’er sin and fear and care;
joy to find in ev’ry station something still to do or bear;
think what Spirit dwells within thee, what a Father’s smile is thine,
what a Savior died to win thee; child of heav’n, shouldst thou repine?

Hasten on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer;
heav’n’s eternal day’s before thee, God’s own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;
hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

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

October 20 Eli Bell
October 20 Daniel Zheng
October 21 Bob DeWitt

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Job 38:1-7; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

THIS MORNING: COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

This morning, Jun Shiomitsu, founder of AVODA Institute of Entrepreneurship in Uganda joined our adult Sunday School class in the Fellowship Hall. Jun spoke about the ongoing work in Uganda of equipping Christian entrepreneurs to fulfill Christ's command to make disciples of all nations by redeeming the business sector in Uganda. For Uganda and other African nations to realize the full Gospel potential of its Christian population, its churches need to become financially independent, funded locally by its own congregations and Christian businesses. When this happens, the sheer size of its Christian population, combined with the economic and socio-cultural overflows that will come with it, will inevitably have a huge transformative Christian impact, not only in Africa, but globally.

Jun originally trained to be a pastor in Japan, studying theology, church history, comparative religion, apologetics, and other biblical studies. However, Jun was called to serve in the Financial Business Sector as an investment banker for 11 years in Japan, the UK, and Switzerland, initially as the Assistant Vice President at Citibank Japan's treasury department, and then as co-founder of the Global Financial Institute of Deutsche Bank Group. Jun earned his MBA at Cambridge University. Shortly after his time at Cambridge, Jun answered a new call to serve as co-founder and president of African Business Institute in Uganda and Malawi for 6 years. As African Business Institute moves to a full-time MBA program, Jun once again answered God's call to serve Christian Entrepreneurs through AVODA Institute of Entrepreneurship.

Joann Williams is also a member of the AVODA management team. She plans to travel to Uganda in January to serve as a facilitator and teacher for four weeks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH GROUP & COVENANT KIDS CLUB

Youth Group and Covenant Kids Club meet tonight from 5:30-7:00pm.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you are interested in joining Riverwood as a member or just want to find out more about our beliefs and practices, please contact Jeff Pate (jpate@riverwoodchurch.org).

HELP NEEDED: REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Your help is needed for the Reformation Celebration on Sunday, October 31. This is a Church-wide celebration. There are many tasks that need to be done. Please contact Joann Williams (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org) if you are able to help in any capacity either before or on the day of the celebration.

SAV-A-LIFE IRON BOWL BANQUET

Riverwood's mercy ministries support Sav-a-life Tuscaloosa. You are invited to join us at their Iron Bowl Banquet fund raiser to see the wonderful work God is doing through this ministry and your support. The banquet will be held on Monday, November 15th, 6pm at the Tuscaloosa River Market. Riverwood has a table reserved, but seating is limited! For more information and to reserve your seat, please contact Wayne Bell at (205) 526-9011 or wayne.h.bell4@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through September 2021

Operating Income:	\$317,359.58
Operating Expense*:	\$354,073.73
Net Income:	(\$36,714.15)
Designated gifts:	\$62,261.15
Building loan balance:	\$660,304.84

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*