

# REFLECTIONS

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The great sin of the Garden of Eden is fundamentally an exchange in the object of worship. And all mankind fell with them in that first sin. All of human history could be described as a story about worship. Will man worship God as he was created to do? Will he be a worshiper in spirit and truth? Or will man worship the creation and self rather than the Creator? This is the great drama of human history.

Jason Helopoulos

*A Neglected Grace: Family Worship in the Christian Home*

The physicality of the Messiah takes us to the heart of the gospel and God's promise, not just of sympathy but of rescue. God has come, come near, come to be God with us and God for us!

Kelly M. Kopic

*Embodied Hope*

As the phrase “pour yourself out” (Isaiah 58:10) implies, it takes effort to do the kind of ministry God calls us to. It actually takes something more precious than effort: *time*. In the busy world we live in, time is often the most treasured commodity. Giving your time and presence to people communicates love in a way words cannot.

Chris Sicks

*Tangible*

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 18, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton  
Joann Williams, 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

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### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 63*

Pastor: O God, you are my God;  
earnestly I seek you;

**All: my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

Pastor: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.

**All: Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord as long as you live!  
In His name, let us lift up our hands in praise.  
Come, let us worship.

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**HYMN: 1** “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with fear, his praise forth-tell,  
come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord ye know is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good,  
his mercy is forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

**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

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## SCRIPTURE READING: *Psalm 51:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. <sup>6</sup>Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, and in our selfish pursuit of pleasing ourselves we have not rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with you and one another. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Psalm 51 & Colossians 2*

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart. He will not despise. As you come in humble reliance on God's mercy and grace through faith in Jesus Christ, hear again the promise of Scripture. *You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him,*

All: **having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.**

Pastor: *This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.* In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

# CONFESSION

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HYMN: 252 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God:  
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

# COMMITMENT

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## OFFERING

*\*Tithes and offerings will be collected by deacons following the morning service as congregants leave the sanctuary.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus  
Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever  
believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.  
(John 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present  
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor  
anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from  
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER (10:30 service)

Asher Henry

HYMN: 337 “O Spirit of the Living God”

O Spirit of the living God, in all thy plenitude of grace,  
where-e'er the foot of man hath trod, descend on our apostate race.

Give tongues of fire and hearts of love to preach the reconciling word;  
give pow'r and unction from above, when-e'er the joyful sound is heard.

Be darkness, at thy coming, light; confusion, order in thy path;  
souls without strength inspire with might; bid mercy triumph over wrath.

O Spirit of the Lord, prepare all the round earth her God to meet;  
breathe thou abroad like morning air, till hearts of stone begin to beat.

Baptize the nations; far and nigh the triumphs of the cross record;  
the name of Jesus glorify, till every kindred call him Lord.

God from eternity hath willed all flesh shall his salvation see:  
so be the Father's love fulfilled, the Savior's sufferings crowned through thee.

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5*

<sup>17</sup>But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, <sup>18</sup>because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. <sup>19</sup>For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup>For you are our glory and joy.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup>and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, <sup>3</sup>that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. <sup>4</sup>For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. <sup>5</sup>For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

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

SERMON:                            “Not Settling for Separation”

Rev. Jeff Pate

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

<sup>8</sup>“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. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.”

1. Gospel ministry is personal and relational.

*Orphanos* - “one who is torn away”

2. We have an enemy who desires to separate and isolate us.



3. We are strengthened when we hear about one another's faith and share one another's burdens.

“<sup>21</sup>When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

*Acts 14:21-22 (see also Acts 15:31 & 18:23)*

4. Our perspective is shaped by the One who came to us and is coming again.

*Parousia* – “at His coming”

Application: Staying connected and encouraging one another by sharing our faith and burdens are worth the effort and inconvenience.

# COMMUNION

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HYMN: “He Will Hold Me Fast”

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

*Chorus:*

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

*(Chorus)*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last!

*(Chorus)*

Words by Ada Habershon & Matt Merker; Music by Matt Merker  
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## 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

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HYMN: 447 “Christ for the World We Sing”

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring  
with loving zeal;  
the poor and them that mourn, the faint and overborne,  
sin-sick and sorrow worn, whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring  
with fervent pray'r;  
the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed,  
redeemed at countless cost from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring  
with one accord;  
with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare,  
with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring  
with joyful song;  
the newborn soul whose days, reclaimed from error's ways,  
inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

## 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

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

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

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

## 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.

## 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*