

For to Calvinism there is really only *one* point to be made in the field of soteriology (the doctrine of salvation): the point that *God saves sinners*...This is the one point of Calvinistic soteriology which the “five points” are concerned to establish and Arminianism in all its forms to deny: namely, that sinners do not save themselves in any sense at all, but that salvation, first and last, whole and entire, past, present and future, is of the Lord, to whom be glory forever; amen.

J. I. Packer

Either Christ did, or did not, make an atonement for the sins of his people. If he did not make an atonement for them, they must satisfy for themselves; if he did answer the demands of justice in their room, it is impossible that, under the righteous administration of Heaven, they should, by any cause, or for any reason, come into condemnation.

Robert Shaw

An Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith

Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

Jesus of Nazareth

Luke 22:31,32

After earlier shocking his disciples with the announcement that a betrayer is in their midst, Jesus again shakes them up with the prediction that they will all fall away from him that very night... that they will fall away does not indicate that the eleven will cease to be Jesus's disciples... Jesus promises restoration even as he predicts failure.

Andreas J. Kostenberger and Justin Taylor

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 25, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin
Lorrie Pate, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
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 1 Chronicles 16*

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!

**All: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth...**

Pastor: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."

**All: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Pastor: Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord,
before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 101 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

Come, thou Almighty King,
help us thy name to sing,
help us to praise.
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three
eternal praises be,
hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.

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: *Hosea 14:1-7*

¹Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. ²Take with you words and return to the Lord; say to him, “Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. ³Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy.” ⁴I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. ⁵I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; ⁶his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. ⁷They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Jeremiah 33:8 & Acts 10:43*

Pastor: Lift your heads and hear the good news of salvation promised through the prophet Jeremiah saying, “I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.”

All: **To Jesus Christ all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**

Pastor: Through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ who gave himself for his people, your sins are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION

HYMN: 55 “To God Be the Glory”

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that we may go in.

Chorus:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro’ Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev’ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

(Chorus)

3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

(Chorus)

COMMITMENT

OFFERING

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

COMMITMENT

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Westminster Confession of Faith* (Modern English) 17.1,2

Leader: What do you believe concerning the perseverance of the saints?

All: Those whom God has accepted in his Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere in it to the end and be eternally saved. The perseverance of the saints does not depend upon their own free will, but on the unchangeableness of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; on the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ; on the continuing presence of the Spirit and the seed of God within them; and on the nature of the covenant of grace. These are grounds of the certainty and infallibility of their perseverance.

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: “Speak, O Lord”

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow’r that can never fail—let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises, and by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *1 Thessalonians 3:6-13*

⁶But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—⁷for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁹For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

SERMON: “Kept and Keeping On” 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. Comfort in the face of affliction (vs.6-7)

II. The perseverance of the saints (vs.8)

A. Secured by God the Father's electing love

“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” Romans 11:29

B. Secured by the Son of God's life, death, resurrection, and continual intercession

“But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the righthand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” Hebrews 10:12-14

“If, then, there is any efficacy in the intercession of Christ, the perseverance of all who believe on him is infallibly secured.” Robert Shaw (commenting on John 17)

C. Secured by the Holy Spirit's permanent presence

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” Ephesians 1:13,14

D. Secured by our union with Jesus

“And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” 2 Corinthians 1:21,22

III. Saving faith continues to grow and mature (vs.9-10)

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

IV. From the beginning to its glorious end, salvation is of the Lord. (vs.11-13)

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.” John 10:27-29

COMMUNION

HYMN: 599 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare:
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine; do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free:
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, let us early turn to thee;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, let us early turn to thee.

Early let us seek thy favor; early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill:
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

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: 92 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and pow’r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

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 27 Warren Pate
October 28 Robert Sheppard
October 29 Kristina Patridge
October 30 Jimmy Hopper

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Tonight from 4:00-6:00pm, Riverwood's annual Reformation Celebration will be held completely outdoors on the church property. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

4:00 - Children's Activities
4:40 - A Conversation with John Calvin (for adults and children)
5:00 - Chili/Hot Dog Dinner

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.

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*