

REFLECTIONS

Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures and by clear reason...I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted. My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. May God help me. Amen.

Martin Luther

At The Diet of Worms, April 18, 1521

We all know people, even unbelievers, who seem to be natural servants. They are always serving others one way or another. But God does not get the glory; they do. It is their reputation that is enhanced. But when we, natural servants or not, serve in dependence upon the grace of God with the strength He supplies, God is glorified.

Jerry Bridges

The Practice of Godliness

Since man was made for the glory of God, he can never be what he was intended to be until his life is properly focused on the glory of God... So God's glory does not detract from man's life. Instead, His glory is the sun around which the whole of life must revolve if there is to be the light and life of God in our experience. Since we were made for His glory, we will always malfunction whenever we fail to live for that purpose according to the Maker's instructions.

Sinclair Ferguson

The Sermon on the Mount

The bedrock of missions is not the value of man. It is the spread of God's glory. The biblical commitment to evangelism and missions is rooted in God's passionate concern to make His name known.

Steve Fernandez

Missions and the Glory of God's Name

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 31, 2021 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Clay Staggs
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 24*

Pastor: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

All: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is the King of glory?

All: The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

All: The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Pastor: The King of glory came, full of grace and truth. So come, let us worship!

HYMN: 198 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!"

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee,
his chariot is humility,
his kingly crown is holiness,
his scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

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: *Amos 5:6-15*

⁶Seek the Lord and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, ⁷O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth! ⁸He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the Lord is his name; ⁹who makes destruction flash forth against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress. ¹⁰They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth. ¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate. ¹³Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: O God, whose nature it is to be generous: we confess to you our indifference toward a world of hungry families and homeless peoples. Forgive us for our self-centered living and spending; forgive us for being consumed with our comforts while forgetting that others are without necessities. Holy Spirit, change our affections and renew our minds that we would love our neighbors in word and deed. Help us to be generous with our resources, our time, and the message of hope in Jesus Christ. Grant that this week some who have given nothing may start to give, and those who have given something may give more. Continue to shape us to reflect the image and character of our Savior. We ask this all in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 2 Corinthians 8*

Pastor: Lift your heads and hear words of life and peace. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. Through the generosity and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, he gave his life for yours. By his death your sins are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 230 “Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
all for love’s sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who was rich beyond all splendor,
all for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love’s sake becamest man:
stooping so low, but sinners raising,
heav’nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love’s sake, becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.

COMMITMENT

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: *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: 337 “O Spirit of the Living God” st. 1-4

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.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1*

²³“All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. ²⁴Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. ²⁵Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁶For “the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.” ²⁷If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁸But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience— ²⁹I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else’s conscience? ³⁰If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

³¹So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³²Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

¹Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

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

SERMON: “The Focus of the Disciple’s Life: *Soli Deo Gloria*”

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 337 “O Spirit of the Living God” st. 5-6

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.

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

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”

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

November 1 Bonnie Martin
November 6 Lori Turner

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

DEACON'S FUND OFFERING

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our Deacons have an offering to replenish funds in an account used exclusively for mercy ministry needs. This fund has enabled our Diaconate to extend the kingdom of God to many within our community. This morning, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

REFORMATION CELEBRATION: TONIGHT AT 4:30PM

Children and adults are welcome to dress up for the occasion. We ask for nothing macabre or scary. There is a box in the foyer of the sanctuary for candy to be distributed at each game. The games and crafts focus on the story of the Reformation. Games and crafts begin at 4:30. The chili judging will be at 5:30, followed by dinner and fellowship.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: KOREAN ROLLS

Who loves Asian food? Come make Korean rolls with us! On Saturday, November 13th from 10-12 at the home of Vielyana Kim (5010 Lakehurst Drive, Northport), the ladies of Riverwood will make our own Korean rolls and fellowship together. Even if you are not interested in making rolls but just want to visit with some great people, please come! We do ask that you RSVP to Lorrie Pate (205-771-0158) or Vielyana Kim (205-239-3101), and if you want to make a roll please pay \$5 cash to Vielyana or Venmo @johnkim07.

SAV-A-LIFE IRON BOWL BANQUET

Sav-A-Life Tuscaloosa's Iron Bowl Banquet is on Monday, November 15, at 6pm at the Tuscaloosa River Market. If you are interested in attending, 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*