

REFLECTIONS

Jesus of Nazareth always comes asking disciples to follow him—not merely "accept him," not merely "believe in him," not merely "worship him," but to follow him: one either follows Christ, or one does not. There is no compartmentalization of the faith, no realm, no sphere, no business, no politic in which the lordship of Christ will be excluded. We either make him Lord of all lords, or we deny him as Lord of any.

Lee Camp

No man is interested in a piece of good news unless he has the consciousness of needing it; no man is interested in an offer of salvation unless he knows that there is something from which he needs to be saved. It is quite useless to ask a man to adopt the Christian view of the gospel unless he first has the Christian view of sin.

Gresham Machen

You never go away from us, yet we have difficulty in returning to You. Come, Lord, stir us up and call us back. Kindle and seize us. Be our fire and our sweetness. Let us love. Let us run.

Augustine of Hippo

We do not fail in our evangelism if we faithfully tell the gospel to someone who is not subsequently converted; we fail only if we do not faithfully tell the gospel at all.

Mark Dever

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 3, 2021 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Dusty Sheppard
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: *based on Psalm 135*

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD,
give praise, O servants of the LORD,
who stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God!

**All: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;
sing praise to his name, for it is pleasant.**

Leader: Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
your renown, O LORD throughout all ages.
For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants.

All: Praise the LORD!

HYMN: 12 “Exalt the Lord, His Praise Proclaim”

Exalt the Lord, his praise proclaim;
 all ye his servants, praise his name,
 who in the Lord’s house ever stand
 and humbly serve at his command.
 The Lord is good, his praise proclaim;
 since it is pleasant, praise his name;
 his people for his own he takes
 and his peculiar treasure makes.

I know the Lord is high in state,
 above all gods our Lord is great;
 the Lord performs what he decrees,
 in heav’n and earth, in depths and seas.
 He makes the vapors to ascend
 in clouds from earth’s remotest end;
 the lightnings flash at his command;
 he holds the tempest in his hand.

Exalt the Lord, his praise proclaim;
 all ye his servants, praise his name,
 who in the Lord’s house ever stand
 and humbly serve at his command.
 Forever praise and bless his name,
 and in the church his praise proclaim;
 in Zion is his dwelling place;
 praise ye the Lord, show forth his grace.

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: *Psalm 32*

¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. ⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. ⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. ⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. ¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. ¹¹Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN: based on a prayer from *The Valley of Vision*

All: Heavenly Father, enlarge my heart, warm my affections, open my lips, supply words that proclaim 'Love radiates at Calvary.' Only there does this sinner find comfort, hope, and life. There your justice was executed and your mercy displayed. Christ was all anguish that I might be all joy, cast off that I might be brought in, trodden down as an enemy that I might be welcomed as a friend, surrendered to hell's worst that I might attain heaven's best, stripped that I might be clothed, wounded that I might be healed, athirst that I might drink, tormented that I might be comforted, made a shame that I might inherit glory, entered darkness that I might have eternal light. By Your Holy Spirit work in me a love for Jesus that overflows to my neighbor for Your glory. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: 1 John 4:9-10

Pastor: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. By God's grace and through faith in Christ, your sins are forgiven and you now have peace with God. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 498 "Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!"

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins.

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,
even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul.

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
storms about me, night o'er-takes me, he, my pilot, hears my cry.

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
he hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine.

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: *from Ephesians 1*

Leader: What do you believe concerning your salvation?

All: **We believe the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.**

Leader: What compelled God to choose you before the foundations of the world?

All: **In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.**

Leader: How can you who are sinners be holy and blameless?

All: **In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.**

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Canevaro family

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: “Come, O Creator Spirit Blest”

Come, O Creator Spirit blest,
and in our hearts take up your rest;
Spirit of grace, with heav’nly aid
come to the souls whom you have made.

You are the Comforter, we cry,
sent to the earth from God Most High,
fountain of life and fire of love,
and our anointing from above.

Make our dull minds with rapture glow,
let human hearts with love o’erflow;
and when our feeble flesh would fail,
may your immortal strength prevail.

Show us the Father, Holy One,
help us to know th’eternal Son;
Spirit divine, forevermore
you will we trust and you adore.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 11:25-30*

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

SERMON: “The Sovereignty and Sincerity of Christ” Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: “Are You Weary, Are You Languid”

Are you weary, are you languid, are you sore distress'd?
“Come to me,” says One, “and, coming, be at rest.”
Has he marks to lead me to him, if he be my Guide?
“In his feet and hands are wound-prints, and his side.”

Chorus:

Finding, foll'wing, keeping, struggling, is he sure to bless?
“Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs answer yes!”

Is there diadem, as Monarch, that his brow adorns?
“Yes, a crown, in very surety, but of thorns.”
If I find him, if I follow, what his promise here?
“Many a sorrow, many a labor, many a tear.”

If I still hold closely to him, what has he at last?
“Sorrow vanquished, labor ended, Jordan passed.”
If I ask him to receive me, will he say me nay?
“Not till earth and not till heaven pass away.”

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: 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.

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

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

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 8 Karen Canevaro
October 9 Diane Powers

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

YOUTH GROUP & COVENANT KIDS CLUB

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

SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, October 6, at 6:30pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, October 17: Combined adult Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, October 31: Reformation Celebration

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*