

The Order of the Divine Mind, embodied in the Divine Law, is beautiful. What should a man do but try to reproduce it, so far as possible, in his daily life.

C. S. Lewis
from *Reflections on the Psalms*

How often do we hear this sort of thing... "I don't think of God as a judge; I like to think of him simply as a Father"... It needs to be said with the greatest possible emphasis that those who hold themselves free to think of God as they like are breaking the second commandment. At best, they can only think of God in the image of man - as ideal man, perhaps, superman. But God is not any sort of man. We are made in his image, but we must not think of him as existing in ours.

J. I. Packer

It is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.

C. S. Lewis
from *The Weight of Glory*

Genesis 1 suggests that the world without man is incomplete. But we can turn that proposition around: man without the world is incomprehensible. That God has placed us here in this world and called us in service both to himself and to his creation means that we can be comfortable with our creaturely status, with our physicality, our undeniable links with the creaturely. Man is made for the earth. This world is our home.

Michael Williams

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 19, 2021 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers
Joann Williams, 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 Isaiah 45*

Leader: For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens,
Who formed the earth and made it.

People: **Assemble yourselves and come, draw near together**
Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth.

Leader: For I am God, there is no other.
To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.
Come! Let us worship!

HYMN: 296 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call;
extol the Stem of Jesse's rod, and crown him Lord of all;
extol the Stem of Jesse's rod, and crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
go, spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all;
go, spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall;
we'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
we'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

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: *Romans 3:19-23*

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: We know that all have sinned and fallen short of your Glory, particularly and personally. And even though you have not spared your own son to redeem us, we continue to trespass against you in thought, word, and deed. Our hearts wander to worldly things even when we are confessing our sins. Our prayers are dominated by petitions rather than praise and thanksgiving. We question your love and your favor when things become hard or discouraging. And all too often we find the very worship of you to be a duty rather than a privilege and a joy. We are quick to forgive ourselves with scant attention to change. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in us.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Titus 3:4-7*

Pastor: “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Through Jesus Christ alone, we have received grace and are at peace with God. May His peace be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 521 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

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: 335 “Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would gracious be;
and with words that help and heal would thy life in mine reveal;
and with actions bold and meek would for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would truthful be;
and with wisdom kind and clear let thy life in mine appear;
and with actions brotherly speak my Lord’s sincerity.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would mighty be;
mighty so as to prevail where unaided man must fail;
ever by a mighty hope pressing on and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would holy be;
separate from sin, I would choose and cherish all things good,
and whatever I can be, give to him who gave me thee!

HYMN: 170 “Fairest Lord Jesus” st. 1-2

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

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: 170 “Fairest Lord Jesus” st. 3-4

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav’n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine.

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

September 20 Nancy Zheng

September 21 Steve Patridge

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

BRIDAL SHOWER FOR CLAIRE BELSON

Please join us for a bridal shower for Claire Belson this afternoon at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Claire is registered at Bed, Bath, & Beyond, Target, and Williams Sonoma.

YOUTH GROUP & COVENANT KIDS CLUB

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

BABY SHOWER FOR APRIL HENRY

You are invited to an adults only baby shower for April Henry and baby Saoirse on Saturday, October 2, at 2pm at Ginny Nippert's house (749 Union Chapel Rd, Northport 35473). The shower will be outdoors on the deck. April and Michael need clothes and toys for their baby girl, and disposable diapers are welcome as well. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with food, please contact Bonnie Martin (336-260-5679) or Ginny Nippert (205-454-9113).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: SNACKS & DRINKS NEEDED

We are serving approximately 45 children each week. We need individually wrapped snacks (no nuts please) and individual drink pouches. A box is in the narthex of the sanctuary to collect donations. You can also drop off at the office. Thank you!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 2021

Operating Income:	\$282,750.98
Operating Expense*:	\$311,716.56
Net Income:	(\$28,965.58)
Designated gifts:	\$57,661.15
Building loan balance:	\$665,982.01

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*