

In the first garden “Not Your will but mine” [by Adam] changed Paradise to desert and brought man from Eden to Gethsemane. Now “Not My will but Yours” [by Jesus Christ] brings anguish to the Man who prays it but transforms the desert into the kingdom and brings man from Gethsemane to the gates of glory.

D. A. Carson

The Expositor's Bible Commentary

“Should I or shouldn't I?” is often, ultimately, a question of obedience as well as knowledge and understanding. Very often when young people say they are having problems about guidance, what they are really faced with is a problem about obedience. The issue at stake is whether we will walk along the paths of righteousness in which God will lead us. Are we willing to go through valleys of deep darkness, so long as He is with us?

Sinclair Ferguson

Discovering God's Will

Realize that when you put your faith in Jesus Christ, there can be no holding back. Your will must hand God its letter of resignation. For unless you submit to God's will in everything, you are not submitting to Him in anything. Think about it. If you only follow God's will when it happens to correspond to your own will, then you never have to surrender at all. You are simply asking God to endorse your own agenda as often as He can. But if you want new life in Christ, you must adopt God's agenda and throw away your own.

Philip Graham Ryken

When You Pray

There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, “Thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, “All right, then, have it your way.”

C. S. Lewis

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 5, 2021 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers
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 50*

Pastor: The Mighty One, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

All: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Pastor: Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.

**All: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth,
that he may judge his people:**

Pastor: "Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with my by sacrifice!"

All: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 316 “The Mighty God, the Lord”

The mighty God, the Lord, hath spoken unto all;
from rising to the setting sun, he unto earth doth call.
From Zion, his own hill, where perfect beauty dwells,
Jehovah hath his glory shown, in brightness that excels.

Our God shall surely come, and silence shall not keep;
before him fire shall waste, and storms tempestuous round him sweep.
He to the heav'ns above shall then send forth his call,
and likewise to the earth, that he may judge his people all.

“Together let my saints unto me gathered be,
those that by sacrifice have made a covenant with me.”
Then shall the heav'ns declare his righteousness abroad;
because the Lord himself is judge, yea, none is judge, but God.

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: *Matthew 5:21-26*

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have ignored your word and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life in joyful submission to your word, all to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *John 3:15-18*

Pastor: Lift your heads and hear the gospel. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, it was necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up, that whoever believes in him would have eternal life.

All: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Pastor: For God did not send his Son to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 156 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord Most Holy, your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation, love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace,
in love all love excelling, our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn o'er joys departed and tremble at your doom.
Despair not, he is near you, yea, standing at the door,
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, let not your souls distress;
your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.
He comes, for men procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,
for all God's sons securing their heritage in heav'n.

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: *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

COMMITMENT

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: “Holy Spirit”

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul;
Bring the presence of the Risen Lord,
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;
may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev’ry sin
in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least;
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth,
giving life to all that God has made.
Show Your power once again on earth,
cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
will be clear for all the world to see.

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 119:25-32*

²⁵My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!

²⁶When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes!

²⁷Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

²⁸My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!

²⁹Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!

³⁰I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your rules before me.

³¹I cling to your testimonies, O Lord; let me not be put to shame!

³²I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

All: but the word of our God will stand forever.

SERMON: “The Word that Provides: Help for the Desperate”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 691 “It Is Well with My Soul”

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.”

Chorus:
It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin – O the bliss of this glorious thought! – my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, “Even so” – it is well with my soul.

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: 598 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy pow’rful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliv’rer, strong Deliv’rer, be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell’s Destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side;
songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

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 6 Ben Sigmon
September 9 Kimberly Staggs
September 11 Bill Hopper
September 11 James Jones

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

YOUTH GROUP & COVENANT KIDS CLUB

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

WOMEN'S BRUNCH

Ladies of all ages are invited to a women's brunch that will be held in the church fellowship hall this Saturday, September 11 @ 10 a.m. We hope this will be a time for nurturing past relationships and starting new ones.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, September 8, 6:30pm: Session & Diaconate meeting
Sunday, September 19, 2:00pm: Bridal Shower for Claire Belson
Sunday, October 31: Reformation Celebration

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*