

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
September 6, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30am • Rev. Jeff Pate, pastor

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Jimmy Hopper
Joann Williams, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers
Dr. Linda Graham, piano

REFLECTIONS:

The moral law expresses God's perfect and righteous will for our lives. So Jesus commands us to keep it, not as a way of getting right with God, but as a way of pleasing the God who has made us right with him.

Philip Ryken

Safely through another week God has brought us on our way;

Let us now a blessing seek, waiting in His courts today;

Day of all the week the best, emblem of eternal rest,

Day of all the week the best, emblem of eternal rest.

John Newton

Just in terms of allocation of time resources, religion is not very efficient. There's a lot more I could be doing on Sunday morning.

Bill Gates

Sabbath is a foreign language to the native tongue of a busy culture, a curious oddity in an overtired church...Sabbath isn't about resting perfectly; it's about resting in the One who is perfect.

Shelly Miller

Rhythms of Rest: Finding the Spirit of Sabbath in a Busy World

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 118*

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!

**All: Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.**

Pastor: The Lord is on my side; I will not fear...
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.

**All: The Lord is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.**

Pastor: In Jesus Christ, God has opened to us the gates of righteousness,
that we may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 389 "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made"

This is the day the Lord has made; he calls the hours his own;
let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad, and praise surround the throne.

Today he rose and left the dead, and Satan's empire fell;
today the saints his triumphs spread, and all his wonders tell.

Hosanna to th'anointed King, to David's holy Son!
Help us, O Lord; descend and bring salvation from the throne.

Blest be the Lord, who comes to men with messages of grace;
who comes in God his Father's name to save our sinful race.

Hosanna in the highest strains the church on earth can raise!
The highest heav'ns in which he reigns shall give him nobler praise.

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.*

SCRIPTURE READING: *Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 2:23-28*

⁸"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

²³One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: ²⁶how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, Father of lights and the source of every good and perfect gift, we come humbly before you. Your Son declared that you made the Sabbath for us, not us for the Sabbath. The gifts you give are intended for our good. Please forgive us for misusing and neglecting such a loving gift. You provide us with a day for physical rest but we are restless, thinking our hope is in human striving. You call us come to you and find spiritual rest through worship and the means of grace you provide. Please forgive us when we view corporate worship as a burden we must bear. Have mercy on us and give our souls the rest we desperately need. Help us know the peace and assurance offered in the good news that "salvation is of the Lord." We ask this in Jesus's name, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Hebrews 3 & 4*

Pastor: Holy brothers and sisters, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.

All: Good news came to us and through faith Jesus Christ we have entered into the rest that God freely offers.

Pastor: By faith in Christ, your sins are forgiven. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 306 "Jesus, My Great High Priest"

Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood and died;
my guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside.
His pow'rful blood did once atone, and now it pleads before the throne.

To this dear Surety's hand will I commit my cause;
he answers and fulfils his Father's broken laws.
Behold my soul at freedom set; my Surety paid the dreadful debt.

My Advocate appears for my defense on high;
the Father bows his ears and lays his thunder by.
Not all that hell or sin can say shall turn his heart, his love, away.

Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell unknown
put their most dreadful forms of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe, for Christ displays his conqu'ring pow'r and guardian grace.

OFFERING:

**Remember to worship through the giving of tithes and offerings. There are offering plates next to the exits for you to place your offering. You may also give online using the link on the church's website or send checks to the church's mailing address.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 21, paragraphs 2 & 7

Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and to him alone; not to angels, saints, or any other creature: and, since the fall, not without a Mediator; nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone.

As it is the law of nature, that, in general, a due proportion of time be set apart for the worship of God; so, in his Word, by a positive, moral, and perpetual commandment binding all men in all ages, he hath particularly appointed one day in seven, for a Sabbath, to be kept holy unto him: which, from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, was the last day of the week; and, from the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, which, in Scripture, is called the Lord's Day, and is to be continued to the end of the world, as the Christian Sabbath.

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 188 "Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting" st. 1-3

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of thy loving heart.
Thou has bid me gaze upon thee, as thy beauty fills my soul,
for by thy transforming power, thou hast made me whole.

Chorus:

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of thy loving heart.

O how great thy loving-kindness, vaster, broader than the sea!
O how marvelous thy goodness lavished all on me!
Yes, I rest in thee, Beloved, know what wealth of grace is thine,
know thy certainty of promise and have made it mine.

(Chorus)

Simply trusting thee, Lord Jesus, I behold thee as thou art,
and thy love, so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;
satisfies its deepest longings, meets, supplies its ev'ry need,
compasseth me round with blessings: thine is love indeed.

(Chorus)

SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 13:15-22*

¹⁵In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food. ¹⁶Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself! ¹⁷Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day? ¹⁸Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Now you are bringing more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath." ¹⁹As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day. ²⁰Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice. ²¹But I warned them and said to them, "Why do you lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath. ²²Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

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

SERMON: "In Dependence Day"

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 188 "Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting" st. 4

Ever lift thy face upon me as I work and wait for thee;
resting 'neath thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory, sunshine of my Father's face,
keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with thy grace.

Chorus:

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of thy loving heart.

THE SACRAMENT OF LORD'S SUPPER:

Pastor: Hear the words of our Savior: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Come, then, for all is ready.

All: **We come at our Savior's invitation, not because we are righteous, but because we are penitent, not because we are strong, but because we are weak, not because we are whole, but because we are broken.**

Pastor: Come, then, for all is ready. Christ was raised to life, death is swallowed up, victory is won. Alleluia!

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

HYMN: 358 "For All the Saints"

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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)

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

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

COVENANT KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

Due to the Labor Day holiday, Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will not meet tonight.

CATECHISM BEGINS THIS WEEK

Children's catechism classes begin this week Wednesday, September 9, from 3:30-4:30pm. Questions? Contact Joann Williams (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).