

Soren Kierkegaard—a Danish philosopher and theologian and poet of the 1800’s—once made a fairly helpful “theater” analogy for understanding certain aspects of worship. It goes something like this:

“We tend to view the preacher as the performer, God as the prompter and the congregation as the audience. But in genuine worship, God is the audience, the preacher is the prompter, and the congregation is made up of real performers.”

This is a good and much-needed improvement to how we “tend to view” worship, but perhaps this is even better:

If we think of the worship service as a dramatic presentation, we note that it must require great preparation, attention, understanding, exertion, and skill from all involved, to ensure an excellent “performance.” It requires careful planning (by the minister), rehearsal (by the musicians), and familiarity with parts and lines (by the congregation).

Here are the Parts of the Drama:

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|
| DIRECTOR: | The Holy Spirit | (in the heart of each true worshipper) |
| PLOT: | The Glory of God | (the goal of worship) |
| AUDIENCE: | The Triune God | (<i>not the people in the pews</i>) |
| CAST: | All of Creation | (especially God’s people) |
| SCRIPT: | The Bible | (which tells us how to worship) |
| STAGE: | The Whole Universe | (all of life, but most certainly the Lord’s Day worship) |



riveroaks
reformed presbyterian church

THE LORD’S DAY

MARCH 19, 2023

10:45AM



riveroaks
reformed presbyterian church

www.riveroakspca.org, 901-755-7772

Words and music printed in this bulletin are in accordance with CCLI #734571.
Sermons can be watched, heard or downloaded at www.riveroakspca.org

TO GLORIFY GOD AND ENJOY HIM FOREVER

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus!
Thank you for joining us today; may the Lord richly bless you.

† Stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Brahms

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT

Missionary Dan Herron

REFLECTION

*The Church has no beauty but what the Bridegroom gives her;
He does not find, but makes her, lovely.*

C.S. Lewis

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.*

Ephesians 5

GOD CALLS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

from Deuteronomy 4:20 & Hebrews 13:15

The Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day!

Through Jesus then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name!

† HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 535

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to Riveroaks! We are delighted you have joined us for worship this morning. We would love to get to know you and serve you anyway we can. Please consider filling out a visitor's card and putting it in the offering plate or scanning the QR code to access our online visitor form.

“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake” (2 Corinthians 4:5).

The Riveroaks Weekly email is published each Thursday. To sign up, contact office@riveroakspca.org.

Frontline Prayer: Every member is heartily encouraged to attend the second of six significant church-wide prayer meetings at Riveroaks this year! This is a "Frontline" prayer meeting, not a "maintenance" prayer meeting. Join us tonight at 6:00pm in the sanctuary.

Wednesday Night Ministries and Meal: 5:30-7:15pm, the meal this Wednesday will be Chick Fil A. Ministries starting at 6:15pm include Heart & Soul (Choir and Catechism Ministry for ages 3 years-6th grade) and RSM (Middle and High School Student Ministry). An Adult Bible Study begins at 6:25pm and Adult Choir begins at 6:50pm.

Welcome Class: The Welcome to Riveroaks Class resumes this Wednesday evening. We start at 6:15pm in Room 117. See Tommy with any questions!

Riveroaks Men's Ministry Lodge Day: This Saturday, March 25 at the Recreation Lodge of the Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. 10:00am Breakfast and lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by a group discussion from 1:30 - 2:00pm. Boys 8 and up are welcome! Contact the church office for late registration information (office@riveroakspca.org).

MEN! As a part of resurrecting the Men's Ministry at Riveroaks, we are wanting to establish a Men's Ministry email list—that includes both members and regular attenders. If you would like to be on this email list, please send an email to office@riveroakspca.org letting us know.

RSM Bowling Night! Friday, March 31, 6-8:00pm at Funquest Bowling Alley in Collierville. Contact Drew for more information. (dturberville@riveroakspca.org)

ROCC Game Night: Friday, March 31, 7-9:00pm, 5469 Fiesta Drive. Contact Drew for more information.

Ladies' Bunco Night: All ladies are invited to play Bunco on Friday, March 31 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Snacks will be provided. Don't know how to play Bunco? If you can roll dice, you can play! It is an easy game to learn and a great time for fellowship!

Riveroaks Cookbook: Please submit your recipes for the new Riveroaks Family Cookbook by March 31. See *The Riveroaks Weekly* for details.

Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic Lunch: Please join us on April 8th from 10-11:30am for an Easter egg hunt, time of devotion and picnic lunch. Please bring your lunch, blankets and chairs so that we can all eat together! Candy donations can be made in the church office. We can't wait to enjoy this time of fellowship together!

Riveroaks Parent Dinner: “Students, Social Media, and Shepherding”. April 14, 6-8pm, Cost \$10. Contact Drew for more information. (dturberville@riveroakspca.org)

PCA General Assembly: Our denomination is celebrating its 50th anniversary this June right here in Memphis! In order to make it an incredible event for the 4000+ attendees, we will need lots of local church members to sign up to volunteer. Please this QR code to find out how best to plug in!



For more announcements, please see The Riveroaks Weekly.

SERMON NOTES

Luke 24:13-35 (page 885)

VI. God's Word To Pastor Timothy: "devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture"
Pastor Tommy Lee

God's Word Meets Us In a World of Deep Pain, Brokenness and Fragmentation

God's Word Then Reinterprets our Story In the Light of Christ Jesus, Our Lord

† PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

GOD CLEANSSES

READING OF THE WORD

Zechariah 5:1-4

Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a flying scroll! And he said to me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits." Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land. For everyone who steals shall be cleaned out according to what is on one side, and everyone who swears falsely shall be cleaned out according to what is on the other side. I will send it out, declares the Lord of hosts, and it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. And it shall remain in his house and consume it, both timber and stones."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father, forgive me for my absence of holy shame, and my unholy boldness in evil. Since the day of my new birth, I have doubted my Lord to his face, murmured unblushingly in his presence, worshipped him in a slovenly manner, and sinned without bewailing myself on account of it. Were my heart not so hardened, I would display more holy fear and a far deeper contrition of spirit. Woe is me for I am undone, and much of my former stubbornness remains. Yet, blessed be the name of the Lord, my disease is not incurable! My Savior's precious blood is the remedy! His mercy will soften my heart, and his grace shall overcome all of my guilt....

Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin....**Amen!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Philippians 3:7-9

Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

† SONG OF FAITH

"The Power of the Cross"
(See insert)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Elijah Calvin Edwards
Covenant Child of Reece and Holli Edwards

Solemn Vows - Parents

Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleaning blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you now present this child to be baptized into the Christian Faith, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with him and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy faith, and that you will strive, by all means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Solemn Vows - Congregation

Do you, members of this congregation, and also members of the Body of Christ outside of this local church, undertake this responsibility - assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

We do.

Solemn Words to the Child

Little child, Jesus Christ has come, he has fought, he has suffered. He has entered into the shadows of Gethsemane and the terrors of Calvary; he has uttered the cry "It is finished!" He has risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, and there he intercedes for his church. Today we have pledged to teach you all of these things, and our prayer for you is that you will always mature and grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our great Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Elijah

Elder Josh Brink

HIS TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

ANTHEM

"At the Cross (Love Ran Red)"
(Tomlin/Oakley Weddle, soloist)

GOD SPEAKS

SERMON TEXT

LUKE 24:13-35

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

Pastor Tommy Lee

SERMON SERIES: OH COME, LET US WORSHIP

VI. God's Word To Pastor Timothy: "devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture"

† HYMN NO. 252

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

GOD INVITES

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER "Lenten Litany"

arr. Lehenbauer

† WE CONFESS OUR FAITH

PSALM 19:7-11

The law of the Lord is perfect,
Reviving the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure,
Making wise the simple;
The precepts of the Lord are right,
Rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure,
Enlightening the eyes;
The fear of the Lord is clean,
Enduring forever;
The rules of the Lord are true,
And righteous altogether!
More to be desired are they than gold,
Even much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb!
Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
In keeping them there is great reward!

GOD SENDS

† BENEDICTION

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**

POSTLUDE

"Herzlich tut mich verlangen"

Brahms