



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 3, 2022

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
865-354-0855

**Elders:**

Kendall Bear  
Dana Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Larry Brackett  
Aaron Evans  
Larry Hill  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Dale Barger

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 10 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
Worship Service 6 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7 pm

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## The Flag We Fly

As Americans, there are few sights that thrill us as much as seeing the “*Stars and Stripes*” billowing in the breeze over a free nation. When July 4th rolls around, many of us find ourselves rallying around our flag, thankful for the freedom we enjoy in our great country. The common purpose and unity that we feel under that flag should be something that binds us together toward causes greater than ourselves.

Likewise—but in a much more meaningful and important sense—Christians rally together under a common flag: Jesus the Christ. The prophet Isaiah spoke of a time when “*the root of Jesse*” (a term for the Messiah) would stand as a banner to the people, and the Gentiles would seek Him (**Isaiah 11:10**). Both Jews and Gentiles would rally to the Messiah, which means this passage was looking forward to a time when the church had been established. In the New Testament, Jesus said that if He be lifted up, He would draw all peoples to Himself (**John 12:32**), calling them to a true spiritual freedom through sacrificial death on the cross (**John 8:32-36**). Both Jews and Gentiles rallied to the banner of the Messiah, wiping out all national lines as far as the kingdom of God was concerned (**Gal. 3:26-29**).

What a beautiful image! Those who seek to know God in truth will come to Jesus through His gospel, and be united together in His kingdom for a common salvation and mission. There is no greater freedom! So while we celebrate our political freedom this July 4th, remember too how Christ has made us free, and rally always to His banner.

Matt Clifton  
Judsonia church of Christ  
Judsonia, AR

# Celebrate Freedom

In a letter dated July 3, 1776, John Adams wrote to his wife:

*“This will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”*

The second President of the United States was right. Without question, our freedom should be celebrated! However, in order to celebrate properly, we must understand our freedom. Consider the spiritual truths as well.

**Freedom comes at a high cost.** The last line of the Declaration of Independence says: “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.” Jesus Christ gave His life to secure our eternal freedom (**Rom. 6:3-9; 8:1-4**). You and I must choose to die to self and live for Christ in order to be truly free (**Gal. 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*).

**Freedom must be maintained.** Freedom can be lost. History has shown again and again that nations can be destroyed. Spiritual freedom can be lost as well (**John 8:31-36; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 3:12** *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.* ).

**Freedom can be dangerous.** People with free will and free rein often make wicked choices. We all choose to serve someone or something (**Rom 6:16-18** *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*).

Freedom must be loved. Fools take freedom for granted. The wise recognized that they’ve been blessed. “Live as people who are free...living as servants of God” (**1 Pet. 2:16; cf. Gal. 5:1**).

Bart Warren (adapted)  
South Green Street church of Christ  
Glasgow, KY