

RESTING • RENEWED • RESPONDING

# RIVERVIEW

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

## WELCOME TO RIVERWOOD

We are glad you are here! Finding a church home can be a daunting process, so we want to help you by telling you who we are up front. We are first and foremost a people **resting** in God's grace offered to us in the gospel of Jesus Christ, being progressively **renewed** by the Holy Spirit, and **responding** in faith, repentance, and obedience.

We are also a reformed, confessional church. That means that we trace our roots back to the Protestant Reformation, and we view the historic confessions, catechisms, and creeds as being invaluable and immensely relevant, because they were derived from our ultimate authority: God's word.

No matter where you are in your understanding of the Christian faith, we hope you find Riverwood to be a place where you can build relationships, ask questions, and grow in your knowledge of Jesus.

We would love to connect with you today before you leave! You can help us with that by filling out the connection card in the back of this bulletin and then dropping it in the offering plate. Our elders will also be in the foyer after the service to meet you and answer any questions you may have.

Now receive this welcome into worship from the risen, reigning Christ:

**"To all who are weary and need rest; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who fail and need forgiveness; to all who struggle and need strength; to all who sin and need a savior: this church opens wide her doors in the name of Jesus, the friend of sinners."**



What matters most to God is not which sins we've committed or not committed, or how we stack up in comparison with other sinners. What matters most to God is whether we've bonded by faith with his only Son. In other words, God's final category for you is not your goodness versus your badness, but your union with Christ versus your distance from Christ. To put it yet another way, what matters most about you in God's sight is not the bad or good things you've done but your trust and openness to Christ versus your self-trust and defensiveness toward Christ

Ray Ortlund

Prayer is not simply talking. It also includes listening, gazing, meditating and any act of attending to God. Prayer without ceasing would be impossible if we had to be talking to him all day long. It becomes more possible as we begin to allow our consciousness to be transformed by attending to the presence of God.

David Benner

The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.

Dallas Willard



January 8, 2023

10:30 Worship Service

**Leaders In Worship:** Director of Student Ministries, *Zac Martin*  
Assisting Elder, *Allen Powers*; Pianist, *Joann Williams*

## WELCOME & PRELUDE

*Program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.*

## PRAISE

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 9*

Leader: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

**All: The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the LORD who sits enthroned in Zion!

**HYMN:** 115 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

### 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 & ASSURANCE

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## **SCRIPTURE READING:**      *Ecclesiastes 8:10-13 (ESV)*

**10** Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity. **11** Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. **12** Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. **13** But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

Leader:              This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:**                  **Thanks be to God!**

## **CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:**

Heavenly Father, we confess our lack of a right fear of you. Because we do not fear you as we should, we live much of our lives fearing many things that lead us into sin. We confess that we often lack the faith necessary for obedience that transcends our circumstances. We choose the path of least resistance rather than pursuing what is most pleasing and glorifying to you. We even see the wicked seemingly prospering and envy them. Please forgive us. Help us, with the eyes of faith, to see where the paths of obedience and disobedience truly lead, and to live accordingly. Make your glory our greatest joy. We pray it in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:**      *from Hebrews 9:11-14*

Leader:              Lift your heads and hear the good news! Jesus has entered the holy places on our behalf, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. By his blood, which he offered through the eternal Spirit, without blemish to God, He now cleanses our consciences from dead works to serve the living God.

**All:**                  The peace of God in Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

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## HYMN:

"Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; In the fury of the storm  
When the winds of doubt blow through me; And my sails have all been torn  
In the suffering, in the sorrow; When my sinking hopes are few  
I will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; While the tempest rages on  
When temptation claims the battle; And it seems the night has won  
Deeper still then goes the Anchor; Though I justly stand accused  
I will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; Through the floods of unbelief  
Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now; Lift your eyes to Calvary  
This my ballast of assurance; See His love forever proved  
I will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; As we face the wave of death  
When these trials give way to glory; As we draw our final breath  
We will cross that great horizon; Clouds behind and life secure  
And the calm will be the better; For the storms that we endure

Christ the sure of our salvation; Ever faithful, ever true  
**We will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed (2x)**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER / OFFERTORY

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

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## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #60*

Leader: How are you righteous before God?

**All: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments, of never having kept any of them, and of still being inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart.**

**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: 94** "How Firm A Foundation"

**SCRIPTURE:** *Romans 5:1-11*

**1** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. **6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (*Next Page*)

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

... **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades,  
All: **but the Word of our God will stand forever.**

**SERMON:**

## "Justification and Its Fruits"

*Rev. Cameron Patterson*



# THE SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

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**HYMN: 460**

"Amazing Grace"

*Verses 1-3*

## **RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Pastor: He forgives all your iniquity, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

**All: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.**

Pastor: And because we are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Let us eat the feast with thankful hearts as God's redeemed and beloved children.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Rev. Cameron Patterson*

**HYMN: 460**

"Amazing Grace"

*Verses 4-6*

## **BENEDICTION**

*Rev. Cameron Patterson*

**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

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## **Mark Your Calendars**

- January 11 — Catechism Club Resumes
- January 13-16 — Youth gone to Ridge Haven
- January 15 — Covenant Kids Resumes
- January 22 — College Sunday School Resumes
- January 28 — JumpStart Workday
- January 29 — Pastor Jeff Returns from Study Break

## **JumpStart Workday**

JumpStart is hosting a workday in Brent, AL on January 28 at 8:30 a.m. For more info please see Bruce and Mickey DeHaan.

## **Birthday Party for Veta Lavender**

You are all invited to celebrate Veta Lavender's 90th birthday! Veta is a longtime member of Riverwood who now lives in a nursing home outside of Tuscaloosa. The party will be on Sunday, January 8 from 2-4 p.m. at Aliceville Manor Nursing Home in Aliceville, AL. If you would prefer to send a card you can mail that to:  
312 North Highland Drive, Aliceville 35442

### *Financials through December*

Operating Income:	\$463,327.56
Operating Expense*:	\$469,624.75
Net Income:	(\$6,297.19)
Designated Gifts:	\$145,588.14
Building Loan Balance:	\$621,345.18

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Staff

Jeff Pate, Pastor  
Joann Williams, Children's Director  
Zac Martin, Director of Student Ministries  
April Henry, Nursery Coordinator

Elders

Jimmy Hopper  
John Kim  
Gene Martin  
Allen Powers  
Dusty Sheppard  
Clay Staggs

Deacons

Tom Arnold  
Wayne Bell  
Steven Crawford  
Bruce DeHaan  
Jeremy Jones  
Marvin Skelton

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

501 Rice Valley Road N  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35406  
  
riverwoodchurch.org  
secretary@riverwoodchurch.org

CONNECTION CARD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive more information about:

- ☐ Our Beliefs
- ☐ Pier Groups (In-Home Bible Studies)
- ☐ Youth or College Ministry
- ☐ Children's Ministry
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Once you drop this in the offering plate one of our elders or deacons will reach out to you within the next week.

Prayer Card

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Once you drop this in the offering plate a deacon will get it to our prayer team to be prayed over at our next prayer meeting.



RIVERWOODCHURCH.ORG