

RESTING • RENEWED • RESPONDING

RIVERLEAF WOOD

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."



If you can pray even the smallest prayer, you are watching God's strength in your weakness. You are watching the Spirit at work in you. You are turning to God even when He feels far away and you feel like you are nothing. That is spiritual strength.

Ed Welch
Depression

Our tendency is to feel intuitively that the more difficult life gets, the more alone we are. As we sink further into pain, we sink further into felt isolation. The Bible corrects us. Our pain never outstrips what Jesus himself shares in. We are never alone. That sorrow that feels so isolating, so unique, was endured by him in the past and is now shouldered by him in the present.

Dane Ortlund
Gentle and Lowly

Gray hair and deepening lines on my face don't speak to me of a past I can't recover but of a future I can barely conceive. The real glory days are not behind but ahead.

Sam Allberry
What God Has to Say About Our Bodies



March 5, 2023

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*
Director of Student Ministries, *Zac Martin*
Pianist, *Linda Graham*

WELCOME & PRELUDE

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

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 46*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Pastor: Be still, and know that He is God.

He will be exalted among the nations, he will be exalted in the earth!

All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 92 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our 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 & ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (ESV)

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. **8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. **9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we confess that we foolishly boast in many things and try to hide or deny our weaknesses. We doubt that your grace is truly sufficient for us. We assume what you and others need most from us is our strength, rather than a humble display of our dependence on you. Holy Spirit, teach us to embrace our weakness so that we can lay hold of true strength that only flows from our union with Christ. Help us to appreciate the thorns you appoint for us to teach us true humility. Cause us to boast in our weakness so that Christ may be glorified in our life. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 8:35-39*

Pastor: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Him you are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Westminster Larger Catechism 62-65*

Leader: What is the visible church?

All: The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.

Leader: What are the special privileges of the visible church?

All: The visible church has the privilege of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

Leader: What is the invisible church?

All: The invisible church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the head.

Leader: What special benefits do the members of the invisible church enjoy by Christ?

All: The members of the invisible church by Christ enjoy union and communion with him in grace and glory.

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: *Elizabeth Lynn Barlow*

HYMN: 331 "Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Mark 10:46-52*

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: "What's Your Story?"

Rev. Jeff Pate

I. Bartimaeus was desperate for mercy.

II. Bartimaeus cried out to the Messiah.

III. When called by the Savior, Bartimaeus ran to Jesus and shared his longing.

IV. By faith, Bartimaeus received mercy and followed Jesus.

HYMN: "Jesus, Strong and Kind"

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to him.

Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to him.

*For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.*

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to him.
No one else can be my shield, I should come to him.

Chorus

Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And he showed me on that cross, He will come to me.

Chorus

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Pastor: With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us — even when we fell into sin.

All: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Pastor: Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 2 "O Worship the King"

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Mark Your Calendars

- Youth group will meet tonight at 5:30 pm.
- Covenant Kids will meet tonight at 5:30 pm.
- Children's Catechism will not meet this week or next.

Updated Fellowship List

Thanks to the hard work of Mrs. Bonnie Martin, our church fellowship list is almost completely updated! We have a few copies on the table in the foyer, and we would appreciate it if you would swing by and make sure your information is correct. Please note any changes and we will update and then distribute the final copy.

Crates for Ukraine!

We have an opportunity to partner with MTW to provide pre-specified relief medical and basic needs products to believers in the war-torn country of Ukraine. The program is easy to carry out, but must follow specific guidelines for sizes and materials included. The deadline for transportation to a site in Chattanooga, for delivery to Lviv, Ukraine, is March 16, so we must move with haste. This would be a wonderful activity for a Pier Group, Sunday School class, or any other group to participate with. See Gene Martin for details or answers to questions.

Sunday School Classes

We may be making a few changes to our Sunday school class schedule soon. Keep an eye out for upcoming email announcements.

Financials through February

Operating Income:	\$56,508.28
Operating Expense*:	\$73,422.18
Net Income:	(\$16,913.90)
Designated Gifts:	\$4,425.00
Building Loan Balance:	\$597,870.86

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
Ed Kidder
Marvin Skelton

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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

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