

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."**



Our real crisis is our compulsive unbelief in God. Our real danger is not when we are exposed to the brutalities of life. Our real danger is when our hearts are not filled with a sense of God. What we most need is not to find a way to cope with the distress immediately before us. What we most need is heart level reality with God so that we can live then out of the fullness he gives whatever life may bring.

Ray Ortlund

As secret worship is better the more secret it is, so public worship is better the more public it is.

Matthew
Henry

We start each day with our personal security resting not on the accepting love of God and the sacrifice of Christ but on our present feelings or recent achievements in the Christian life. Since these arguments will not quiet the human conscience, we are inevitably moved either to discouragement and apathy or to a self-righteousness which falsifies the record to achieve a sense of peace. But the faith that is able to warm itself at the fire of God's love, instead of having to steal love and self-acceptance from other sources, is actually the root of peace.

Richard Lovelace



May 7, 2023

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*
Director of Student Ministries, *Zac Martin*
Piano, *Ginny Coleman*

WELCOME & PRELUDE

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

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 23*

Pastor: Come, all who are weary.

All: The Lord is our shepherd; he makes us lie down in green pastures.

Pastor: Come, all who are heavy laden.

All: Our shepherd leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.

Pastor: Come, you who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

All: The Lord prepares a table before us.

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 86 "The Lord's My Shepherd"

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 OF SIN

SCRIPTURE READING: *Ephesians 4:1-5 (ESV)*

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, you have redeemed us with the priceless blood of your Son and reconciled us to one another. Yet we confess that our life together often fails to reflect this glorious reality. Instead of walking in humility, we often seek to platform and project a curated version of ourselves. We are harsh and demanding with one another when you have called us to be gentle. We become annoyed and impatient easily, despite your being slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love toward us. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Help us to love one another with the love you have given to us, so that we can walk in the unity you have secured for us. May a watching world see a love among us that could only come from you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Ephesians 2:4-7*

Pastor: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN: "It Was Finished upon that Cross"

How I love the voice of Jesus, on the Cross of Calvary.
He declares His work is finished; He has spoken this hope to me.
Though the sun had ceased its shining, though the war appeared as lost,
Christ had triumphed over evil. It was finished upon that Cross.

Now the curse it has been broken; Jesus paid the price for me.
Full the pardon He has offered. Great the welcome that I receive.
Boldly I approach my Father, clothed in Jesus' righteousness.
There is no more guilt to carry. It was finished upon that Cross.

Death was once my great opponent. Fear once had a hold on me.
But the Son who died to save us, rose that we would be free indeed.

Death was once my great opponent. Fear once had a hold on me.
But the Son who died to save us, rose that we would be free indeed.
Yes, He rose that we would be free indeed.

Free from every plan of darkness, free to live and free to love.
Death is dead and Christ is risen. It was finished upon that Cross.

Onward to eternal glory to my Saviour and my God
I rejoice in Jesus' victory. It was finished upon that Cross! (x3)

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Nigel Hendroff

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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: 699

"Like a River Glorious"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 32*

1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. **2** Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. **3** Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. **4** The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly. **5** The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable. **6** For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the Lord, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. **7** As for the scoundrel—his devices are evil; he plans wicked schemes to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right. **8** But he who is noble plans noble things, and on noble things he stands. **9** Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; you complacent daughters, give ear to my speech. **10** In little more than a year you will shudder, you complacent women; for the grape harvest fails, the fruit harvest will not come. **11** Tremble, you women who are at ease, shudder, you complacent ones; strip, and make yourselves bare, and tie sackcloth around your waist. **12** Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine, **13** for the soil of my people growing up in thorns and briers, yes, for all the joyous houses in the exultant city. **14** For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks; **15** until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. **16** Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. **17** And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. **18** My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. **19** And it will hail when the forest falls down, and the city will be utterly laid low. **20** Happy are you who sow beside all waters, who let the feet of the ox and the donkey range free.

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

SERMON:

"God, Reigning and Pouring"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 691

"It Is Well with My Soul"

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: With these words our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return in glory.

All: **In this supper God declares to us that our sins have been completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the cross once for all. He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who with his very body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father, where he wants us to worship him.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 310

"Rejoice, the Lord Is 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 and Covenant Kids will meet tonight at 5:30
- Wednesday, May 10 - Officers' Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Updated Church Directory

Our updated church directory is now available in the member's portal on our website, or by email upon request. For more information email secretary@riverwoodchurch.org.

Thank you from Joyce Huizinga

Thank you so much for your generosity to the Isaiah 55 ministry. From May 6th to May 13th I will be in Reynosa, Mexico working with women in the neighborhood Bible study who produce items that are sold by 2 churches in the US. These churches have requested 4 additional items to be manufactured: microwave bowl holders, traveling curling iron case, a squeaky dog toy plus a Para cord dog pull toy. Please pray for wisdom, patience and clarity in translation (my Spanish is minimal). Thank you again for your support of this work.

Help Needed for VBS

This year, VBS will be held on the mornings of July 10th - 13th. Here's ways you can help. First be in prayer for the planning, workers, children, etc. Second, pray about helping. We need everything! If you have any questions, see Joann and she will help you match up your talents to the work that needs to be done. We also need help pre-VBS to prepare craft kits and other items. Sign-up sheet for volunteers will be available May 23rd.

Informational Meeting Today

There will be a brief informational meeting immediately after worship today. Elders will provide updates on current ministry in the church along with plans for the summer and coming year. There will be time for questions and answers during the meeting and elders will also stick around to talk afterwards.

Financials through April

Operating Income:	\$131,187.69
Operating Expense*:	\$146,792.37
Net Income:	(\$15,604.68)
Designated gifts:	\$10,820.00
Building loan balance:	\$583,437.11

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Staff

Jeff Pate, Pastor
Joann Williams, Children's Director
Zac Martin, Director of Student Ministries

Elders

John Kim
Gene Martin
Dusty Sheppard

Deacons

Wayne Bell
Steven Crawford
Bruce DeHaan
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