

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."**



God gives us Sabbath as a gift; it's an island of get-to in a sea of have-to. He also offers us Sabbath as a test; it's an opportunity to trust God's work more than our own. When I go weeks without taking adequate time off, I may or may not be disobeying the fourth commandment, but I'm certainly too convinced of my own importance and more than a little foolish. If my goal is God-glorifying productivity over a lifetime of hard work, there are few things I need more than a regular rhythm of rest.

Kevin DeYoung
Crazy Busy

And although we ought to love God far more than men, yet most properly does God, instead of worship or honor, require love from us, because in this way he declares that no other worship is pleasing to Him than what is voluntary; for no man will actually obey God but he who loves Him.

John Calvin

The fundamental response to God's radical love for us is for us to radically love Him.

Mark Dever



July 9, 2023

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*
Piano, *Joann Williams*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 138*

Pastor: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**All: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,**

Pastor: for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

**All: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 660

"O God beyond All Praising"

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: *Exodus 20:1-2, 8-11*

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery..."Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, in your goodness and grace you have blessed us with a day to cease from our labors and enjoy the rest we have in you. We confess that our hearts are restless and we are disposed to spend every day trying to secure by our own efforts those things that can only be found in you and received by faith. Help us to rest securely in your unmerited love, undeserved mercy, eternal acceptance, and the fellowship we have with you. Forgive us for forgetting the blessing of rest and worship. Help us to delight in the good gifts you give and grow in our worship of you, our Provider. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *1 John 4:9, 10, 19*

Leader: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins...We love because he first loved us.
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

HYMN: 648

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

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: *Apostles Creed*

Christian, what do you believe?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

RECEIVING THE WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: "Holy Spirit"

Holy Spirit, living breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord, to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; Give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for Your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within, may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin, in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace; Breath of God show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth, cause Your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

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SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 22:34-40*

34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. **35** And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. **36** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" **37** And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38** This is the great and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **40** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

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

SERMON NOTES

SERMON:

"The Greatest Commandment(s), part 1"

Rev. Jeff Pate

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

There is unspeakable comfort - the sort of comfort that energizes, be it said, not enervates - in knowing that God is constantly taking knowledge of me in love and watching over me for my good. There is tremendous relief in knowing that his love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quesnch his determination to bless me.

J. I. Packer
Knowing God

HYMN:

"He Will Hold Me Fast"

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He Will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus:
He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.

Those he saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He Will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He Will hold me fast.

Chorus

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last.

Chorus

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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: 599 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

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

Ladies' Bible Study

Entrusted to Be Invested- A Study of 1 Timothy

Ladies please join us for a 6 week study this summer on Wednesdays beginning this week, June 28 at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. A light supper is provided so all you need to bring is a Bible and pen and if you have a friend interested in studying God's word, invite her! This is a good way to introduce someone to our community! We have ordered books and hope they will be here by tomorrow evening, if not we will have handouts for everyone for the first week. The books are \$14 each and can be paid to Lorrie Pate via cash, check, or Venmo (@thepateeight) but there is no rush on the payment. If you can text Lorrie Pate at 205-771-0158 to let her know you are planning to attend, that will help with food planning.

Vacation Bible School The Case of the Baffling Beginnings

Mon. - Wed., July 10 - 12 (9:00 - 11:30 am) | Thursday, July 13th (9:00 - 12:30 pm)

We need help in the following ways:

1. SETUP - We need help setting up on Sunday, July 9th at 3:00.
2. INVITE - We would love for you to bring a friend or two! You can register in the foyer or online.

Quarterly Update

Following next Sunday's worship service (July 16), the officers will provide a brief quarterly update on the church's finances and ideas for faithfully moving forward.

Financials through May

Operating Income:	\$181,441.40
Operating Expense*:	\$221,757.09
Net Income:	(\$40,315.69)
Designated gifts:	\$16,858.00
Building loan balance:	\$569,593.02



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