

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 scanning the QR code on the back page of this bulletin and filling out the linked *Information Connection* page. 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."**



For worship is, essentially, the reverse of sin. Sin began (and begins) when we succumb to the temptation, "You shall be as gods." We make ourselves the center of the universe and dethrone God. By contrast, worship is giving God his true worth; it is acknowledging Him to be the Lord of all things, and the Lord of everything in our lives. He is, indeed, the Most High God!

Sinclair Ferguson

Mission begins with a kind of explosion of joy. The news that the rejected and crucified Jesus is alive is something that cannot possibly be suppressed. It must be told. Who could be silent about such a fact? The mission of the Church in the pages of the New Testament is more like the fallout from a vast explosion, a radioactive fallout which is not lethal but life-giving.

Leslie Newbigin

I do not appeal to you to screw up your courage and sacrifice for Christ. I appeal to you to renounce all you have to obtain life that satisfies your deepest longings. I appeal to you to count all things as rubbish for the surpassing value of standing in the service of the King of kings. I appeal to you to take off your store-bought rags and put on the garments of God's ambassadors. I promise you persecutions and privations, but "remember the joy!" "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:10).

John Piper



November 19, 2023

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*

Assisting Elder, *John Kim*

Piano, *Joann Williams*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 92*

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**All: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,**

Pastor: to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

**All: For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

HYMN: 635

"How Good It Is to Thank the Lord"

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 5:8b-21*

Walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), **10** and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. **13** But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, **14** for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." **15** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake. Yet we have strayed from your way; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift of your grace, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:

Pastor: Through the prophet Micah, hear the promise of God's mercy. "Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." Through faith in Jesus Christ who gave His life for our transgressions, your sins are forgiven and God delights in His steadfast love for you. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 306

"Jesus, My Great High Priest"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

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: *Nicene Creed*

Christian, what do you believe?

**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.

MISSIONS MOMENT

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 457

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 42:10-17*

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: "A New Song for the Nations"

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: "The King in All His Beauty"

O lift your eyes to Heaven, see the Holy One eternal.
Behold the Lord of Majesty, exalted in His temple.
As symphonies of angels' praise now strain to sound His glory
Come worship, fall before His grace, the King in all His beauty.

Chorus:

How worthy, how worthy, how worthy,
the King in all His beauty.

Now see the King who wears a crown, one made of shame and splinters.

The sacrifice for ruined man, the substitute for sinners.
As Earth is stained with royal blood, and quakes with love and fury
He breathes His last and bows His head, the King in all His beauty.

Now see the Savior lifted up, the Lamb who reigns in splendor.

The hope of every tribe and tongue, His kingdom is forever.
Bring praise and honor to His courts. Bring wisdom, power, blessing.
For endless ages we'll adore the King in all His beauty.

Words and music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa
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COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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: 447 "Christ for the World We Sing"

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

We Give Thanks

After church this morning, please join your Riverwood family for dinner on the grounds. Riverwood's annual We Give Thanks service will directly follow the meal in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a time for members of the congregation to give God thanks, so be thinking of something you may want to share.

Covenant Kids & Youth Group

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will NOT meet tonight or next week Sunday, November 26.

Angel Tree

What is Angel Tree? It is a ministry to children of incarcerated parents. Through this program, we as a church can embrace children in our community by providing them with a Christmas gift, given in love, on behalf of their parent. Each gift presents an opportunity to share the love and hope of Christ. Please prayerfully consider participating in this program by doing any of the following: (1) purchasing presents (one clothing and one toy item) for a child from the tree, (2) providing non-perishable food items, (3) donating to purchase gospel focus books for the families or (4) helping deliver presents on December 18 or 19. Pine Valley Independent Living Facility will be joining us in this effort. For more information, contact Joann Williams.

UnBound 216 - donations due tomorrow

We have the opportunity to minister to UnBound216 inmates inside Bibb Co. Correctional Facility by putting together 318 Hygiene Kits to be delivered at Christmas.

Items needed (*All items must be full-size*): Deodorant (no spray), bars of soap, white washcloths, white crew socks - plain white (no markings at all), toothpaste, and toothbrushes (individually packaged).

There is a bin in the narthex marked "UnBound216" for donated items. We need to collect these by Nov. 20. If you prefer to donate money, make checks out to RPC and mark the memo line with "UnBound216 Hygiene Kits." Questions? See Joanie and George Norris or Mickey and Bruce DeHaan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday

November 21 Jay Finch

Crafting with a Purpose

We have 150 stockings ready to deliver. Over 20 persons from our congregation participated in stocking construction; young and old alike. A big thank you to those who prayed over this project. God took over what we could not have done in our own strength. If you have stockings you are working on at home (sewing, pressing, etc.), please return them to the church no later than December 3. Should you be unable to finish your stockings, please return the unfinished items by December 1. The room has been cleaned and there are several irons and ironing boards plus extension cords that I do not know who they belong to. Please pick them up if they belong to you. Thank you so very much! ~Joyce Huizinga

Christmas Concert

On Sunday, December 10 at 6:00pm, Riverwood is hosting a concert by Nathan Clark George. Some of you may remember when he has come in the past. Plan to join us for an evening of beautiful music, and please invite friends!

Mark Your Calendars

- Sunday, December 17: Covenant Kids Club & Youth Group Christmas Parties
- Sunday, December 24, 6:00pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Week of December 25: Church Office closed

Financials through October

Operating Income:	\$341,828.24
Operating Expense*:	\$351,751.16
Net Income:	(\$9,922.92)
Designated gifts:	\$28,830.00
Building loan balance:	\$541,760.63



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