

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."**



True worship begins with brokenness and humility over whatever God reveals to us in His Word. Poverty of spirit and mourning over our sin lead to genuine repentance, which in turn leads to forgiveness. Forgiveness will produce freedom – freedom from guilt and bondage. When we have freedom that has been birthed out of brokenness, repentance, and forgiveness, we will have a greater capacity for love – supernatural ability to love God and to love those who are unlovable – and for worship. And of course, true love and worship will lead up back to a new level of brokenness, which leads to greater and deeper repentance, increased forgiveness, newfound freedom, and an even greater capacity for love and for worship.

Nancy Leigh DeMoss

The secret to freedom from enslaving patterns of sin is worship. You need worship. You need great worship. You need weeping worship. You need glorious worship. You need to sense God's greatness and to be moved by it — moved to tears and moved to laughter — moved by who God is and what He has done for you. And this needs to be happening all the time.

Tim Keller

Revival describes a renewal of spiritual life, while reformation describes a renewal of the forms and structures of society and culture. It is not possible to have true reformation without first having true revival.

R. C. Sproul



November 26, 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 150*

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens!

**All: Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his excellent greatness!**

Pastor: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 125

"Let All Things Now Living"

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 6:10-20*

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. **14** Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. **16** In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **18** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, **19** and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we come humbly confessing that we try to live our lives standing in our own strength. We admit that we are tempted to adopt the world's values and take up the world's strategies for living and surviving. Please forgive us. Holy Spirit, cover and equip us with the armor that Jesus provides. Adorn our lives with truth, righteousness, peace, and faith. Enable us to faithfully enlist the strategies and weapons you provide like resting in Jesus for our salvation, applying your living Word, praying at all times, and proclaiming the gospel. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 Peter 2; Romans 4:25*

Pastor: The Good News is that Jesus Christ suffered for you. He committed no sin and yet he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

All: For we were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

Pastor: Jesus Christ was delivered over to death for your sins and raised for your justification. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN:

"All I Have Is Christ"

I once was lost in darkest night; Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life; Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own; A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first; I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race; Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state; And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed; You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me; Now all I know is grace

Chorus:

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone; And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands; Could never come from me
O Father, use my ransomed life; In any way You choose
And let my song forever be; My only boast is You

Chorus (3x)

OFFERTORY PRAYER & OFFERTORY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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: *Colossians 1:15-20*

Leader: Christian, what do you believe about Jesus Christ?

All: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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: 330

"Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 42:18-43:21*

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: "Redemption and Reformation"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 701

"Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!"

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: 21

"Sing Praise to the Lord!"

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

Covenant Kids & Youth Group

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will NOT meet tonight.

Crafting with a Purpose

We have 150 stockings ready to deliver on December 4. 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

College Dead Week Study Space - December 5-7

From 10 am to 5 pm each day, the fellowship hall and classrooms will be available for student study space. Tables and dry erase boards are available in classrooms also for any group project needs. We will provide snacks, coffee, water, and a light lunch each day as well. Riverwood members, please help us provide this opportunity by supplying packaged snacks (please bring to the box in the foyer or leave in the administrative building) or signing up for lunch items at the link in your weekly email.

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday

November 28 Bob Prince

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.

Mark Your Calendars

- Sunday, December 10, 6:00pm: Christmas Concert with Nathan Clark George
- 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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RPC!



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