

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."**



All we could ever imagine, could ever hope for, He is... He is the Prince of Peace whose first coming has already transformed society but whose second coming will forever establish justice and righteousness. All this, and infinitely more, alive in an impoverished baby in a barn. That is what Christmas means – to find in a place where you would least expect to find anything you want, everything you could ever want.

Michael Card

Redemptive history remains incomplete until Christ returns. It is for the final act in the great drama of redemption that the church awaits with longing.

Robert Mounce

The center of Christianity is the coming of the Son of God into the world as a real man to destroy the works of the devil and create a new people for His own glory. The very heart of our faith is that He did this by obeying the law of God, dying for the sins of His people, rising victorious over death, ascending to God's right hand with all His enemies under his feet. The second coming of Christ is the completion of His saving work. If you take it away, the whole fabric of His saving work unravels.

John Piper



December 3, 2023

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*

Assisting Elder, *John Kim*

Piano, *Mrs. Linda Graham*

WELCOME and PRELUDE

"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

arr. Tom Fettke

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

ADVENT READING

Hope: Jeremiah 33:14-16

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 65*

Pastor: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.
O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

**All: When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.**

Pastor: Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!

**All: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 218

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

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: *Deuteronomy 5:6-10*

6 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **7** You shall have no other gods before me. **8** You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **9** You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, **10** but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 John 4*

Pastor: 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 212

"Within a Crib My Savior Lay"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

arr. Mark Hayes

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 Apostles' Creed*

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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 196

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 24:1-14*

1 Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. **2** But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." **3** As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" **4** And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. **5** For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. **6** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. **9** Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. **10** And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. **11** And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. **12** And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. **13** But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: "Guidance before the Next Advent"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 599

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

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: 316

"The Mighty God, 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 meet tonight at 5:30pm.

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.

Women's Cookie Swap

Join us this Saturday, December 9 at 6:30pm at Carrie Henry's home (2901 47th Ave. E 35405) for a cookie swap! Please bring three dozen Christmas cookies from your favorite homemade recipe with 20-30 recipe cards. Everyone will be able to take home an assorted box of cookies!

Christmas Concert

Next 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

December 8 Noah Parker

December 9 Heather Henson

Angel Tree: How Can You Help?

1. Please be in prayer for the children, their families, and the incarcerated person.
2. Select an Angel from the Tree and buy gifts for the child (one fun item and one clothing item).
3. Assist with the purchase of books that will teach the families about Jesus. Please see Joann for more information.
4. Provide non-perishable food items. The following are several suggestions. This list is not exhaustive. Bulk items are welcome and will be split between the families.
 - Breakfast items, granola bars, snack items for lunches or after school, non-refrigerated milk, bag of potatoes or other non-refrigerated fresh vegetables, can vegetables, rice/pasta, sauces

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 November

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Operating Income: | \$372,566.49 |
| Operating Expense*: | \$387,317.39 |
| Net Income: | (\$14,750.90) |
| Designated gifts: | \$30,655.00 |
| Building loan balance: | \$534,870.71 |



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