

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."**



"Idolatry" is the practice of seeking the source and provision of what we need either physically or emotionally in someone or something other than the one true God. It is the tragically pathetic attempt to squeeze life out of lifeless forms that cannot help us meet our real needs.

Scott Haffeman

The true god of your heart is what your thoughts effortlessly go to when there is nothing else demanding your attention.

Tim Keller

We were made in His image, but we must not think of Him existing in ours.

J. I. Packer

God's pursuit of my praise of Him is not weak self-seeking but the epitome of self-giving love! If my satisfaction in Him is incomplete until expressed in praise of Him for satisfying me, then God's effort to solicit my worship is both the most loving thing He could possibly do for me and the most glorifying thing He could possibly do for Himself. For in my gladness in Him is His glory in me.

Sam Storms



January 7, 2024

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*
Piano, *Ginny Coleman*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 147*

Pastor: Praise the LORD!

**All: It is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant and a song of praise is fitting.**

Pastor: The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds...
The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

**All: Great is our LORD and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship our all-powerful, all-knowing, and merciful God!

HYMN: 119

"I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

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: *Matthew 18:1-6*

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" **2** And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them **3** and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, **6** but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Galatians 2*

Pastor: We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. Through faith in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and accepted as righteous in the sight of God. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 691

"It Is Well with My Soul"

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:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

All: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Jn 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

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: 59

"Forever Settled in the Heavens"

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 44:9-23*

9 All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame. **10** Who fashions a god or casts an idol that is profitable for nothing? **11** Behold, all his companions shall be put to shame, and the craftsmen are only human. Let them all assemble, let them stand forth. They shall be terrified; they shall be put to shame together. **12** The ironsmith takes a cutting tool and works it over the coals. He fashions it with hammers and works it with his strong arm. He becomes hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water and is faint. **13** The carpenter stretches a line; he marks it out with a pencil. He shapes it with planes and marks it with a compass. He shapes it into the figure of a man, with the beauty of a man, to dwell in a house. **14** He cuts down cedars, or he chooses a cypress tree or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it. **15** Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it. **16** Half of it he burns in the fire. Over the half he eats meat; he roasts it and is satisfied. Also he warms himself and says, "Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire!" **17** And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!" **18** They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand. **19** No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, "Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals; I roasted meat and have eaten. And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?" **20** He feeds on ashes; a deluded heart has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself or say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?" **21** Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. **22** I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. **23** Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

RECEIVING THE WORD

SERMON:

"Gods Made in Our Image"

Rev. Jeff Pate

SERMON NOTES:

HYMN:

"What Grace Is Mine"

What grace is mine that He who dwells in endless light
Called through the night to find my distant soul,
And from His scars poured mercy that would plead for me,
That I might live and in His name be known.

Chorus:

So I will go wherever He is calling me,
I lose my life to find my life in Him.
I give my all to gain the hope that never dies;
I bow my heart, take up my cross, and follow Him.

What grace is mine to know His breath alive in me;
Beneath His wings my weary soul may soar;
All fear can flee, for death's dark night is overcome;
My Savior lives and reigns forevermore.

Words: Kristyn Getty; Music: Traditional Irish folk tune
©2009 Thankyou Music. CCLI license #11239744

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper to nourish and sustain those who are born again and grafted into his family: his church. Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread as the sacrament of his body and wine as the sacrament of his blood.

All: Just as truly as we take and hold the sacraments in our hands and eat and drink them in our mouths, by which our life is then sustained, so truly we receive into our souls, for our spiritual life, the true body and true blood of Christ, our only Savior. We receive these by faith, which is the hand and mouth of our souls.

Pastor: This banquet is a spiritual table at which Christ communicates himself to us with all his benefits. By the use of this holy sacrament we are moved to a fervent love of God and our neighbors.

from Belgic Confession, Article 35

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 55 "To God Be the Glory"

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

Happy Birthday

January 9 EJ Gay
January 10 Brenda Sheppard
January 12 Kathy Gilbert

Covenant Kids Club & Youth Group

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group meet tonight at 5:30pm.

Pier Groups

A couple of our Pier Groups will be resuming this week. There will be a group meeting in the fellowship hall this evening from 5:30-7 pm led by Dusty Sheppard. On Tuesday evening, there will be a group meeting at the Pates house (2030 Idlewood Drive) beginning at 6 pm. For more information on these groups or when the other groups will resume, feel free to ask one of our greeters after the service.

Church Officer Meeting

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, January 10 at 6:00pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

Mark Your Calendars

- January 12-15: Ridge Haven Winter Retreat
- Saturday, January 13: Church Work Day
- Saturday, January 27: Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry Annual Meeting

2023 Financials

Operating Income:	\$419,035.60
Operating Expense*:	\$426,057.19
Net Income:	(\$7,021.59)
Designated gifts:	\$39,025.00
Building loan balance:	\$527,148.60



Scan this QR code to
fill out a visitor's
form, request prayer,
or learn more about
RPC!



RIVERWOODCHURCH.ORG