

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."**



There is an infinite distance between God and His creatures, and it is an act of sheer grace for Him to take notice of earthly things. Christ, as God, is completely self-sufficient in His own eternal blessedness. How great, then, is the glory of His self-humiliation in taking our nature that He might bring us to God! Such humiliation was not forced on Him; He freely chose to do it.

John Owen

Does God ask us to do what is beneath us? This question will never trouble us again if we consider the Lord of heaven taking a towel and washing feet.

Elisabeth Elliot

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



February 11, 2024

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*

Assisting Elder, *John Kim*

Piano, *Mrs. John Graham*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

"Come, Ye Disconsolate"

Samuel Webbe

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Isaiah 55 & Matthew 11*

Pastor: Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

All: Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Pastor: Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

All: Jesus promised, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Pastor: Come, and find pardon. Come, and find rest. Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 165

"Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

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: *Revelation 2:1-7*

1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: "The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. **2** I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. **3** I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. **4** But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. **5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. **6** Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting and redeeming love. Because you first loved us, you sent your Son for our salvation and blessed us with your Word and its testimony of the gospel to us. Please forgive us for how cold our affections can be for you. We confess that our hearts and emotions can be fickle and our affections misplaced. Have mercy on us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and renew a right spirit in us. We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 5*

Pastor: Hear the good news! We have been justified by faith and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. If while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 455

"And Can It Be That I Should Gain"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"

Charles H. Gabriel

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: *from Philippians 2*

Leader: What does Scripture teach concerning the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus?

All: **Though he was in the form of God, Christ Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

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: 332

"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 49:1-7*

1 Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. **2** He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. **3** And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." **4** But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God." **5** And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— **6** he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." **7** Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

SERMON:

Rev. Stewart Swain

HYMN:

"Are You Weary?"

Are you weary, are you languid, are you sore distress'd?
"Come to me," says One, "and, coming, be at rest."
Has he marks to lead me to him, if he be my Guide?
"In his feet and hands are wound-prints, and his side."

*Finding, foll'wing, keeping, struggling, is he sure to bless?
"Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs answer yes!"*

Is there diadem, as Monarch, that his brow adorns?
"Yes, a crown, in very surety, but of thorns."
If I find him, if I follow, what his promise here?
"Many a sorrow, many a labor, many a tear."

If I still hold closely to him, what has he at last?
"Sorrow vanquished, labor ended, Jordan passed."
If I ask him to receive me, will he say me nay?
"Not till earth and not till heaven pass away."

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine, that our sharing of them may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and that we may become one in him. May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed, and with your whole creation we will sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

All: **Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 442

"Arise, O God"

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 Club & Youth Group

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

Ash Wednesday Service

Riverwood will hold an Ash Wednesday service this Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00am in the Sanctuary. You are welcome to join us to begin the Easter season with worship, as we seek to acknowledge and turn from our sin. The service will last approximately 30 minutes.

Women's Bible Study

The winter Women's Bible Study continues this week. It meets on Wednesdays at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall with a light dinner provided. Paige Brown is teaching on the book of Daniel.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study continues this Thursday, February 15 from 6pm to approximately 7pm with plans to continue for a few months on Thursday nights in the Fellowship Hall. We are considering Dr. R.C. Sproul's "What is Reformed Theology?" Questions? Contact Dusty Sheppard at (205) 542-0252.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

Riverwood members have been invited to participate in a marriage enrichment weekend with Alberta Baptist Church on February 16 and 17. Pastor Jeff and Lorrie will be part of panel discussions and leading breakout sessions. Please see your weekly announcement email for more information and the link to register. Registration closes today!

UnBound216 Fellowship Dinner

Riverwood is providing the meal for a dinner for UnBound216 in Brent on Friday, February 23. The menu is chili, salad, dessert, and tea. Interested on helping? See Joannie Norris or Mickey DeHaan. All are welcome to join us that day at 6pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday

February 17 Joyce Huizinga

UnBound216 Easter Hygiene Kits

We will be putting together hygiene kits for the 320 inmates who are involved in the UnBound216 ministry. There is a basket in the narthex to place your items. Donations needed: white washcloths, full size bars of soap, full size toothpaste, individually packaged toothbrushes, full size stick deodorant, and plain white crew socks. There will be a packing party on March 22 at 5:30pm at Brent PCA, and all are invited!

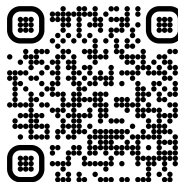
Pier Groups

We believe an important component of Christian discipleship is regular time in the word and prayer with fellow believers. One way we seek to provide opportunities for that is through small groups that we refer to as Pier Groups. We currently have four groups for you to choose from.

- Martins (4004 Triple Crown Circle, 35406) on Sundays in their home @ 5:30 pm. For more info contact Gene at (205) 614-2781.
- Sheppards on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall @ 5:30 pm. To find out more about this group, call Dusty at (205) 542-0252.
- Pates (2030 Idlewood Drive, 35405) on Tuesdays at their home @ 6 pm. You can reach out to Jeff at (205) 771-0170.
- Kims (5010 Lakehurst Drive, 35473) on Fridays at their home @ 6:30 pm beginning in February. John can be reached at (443) 722-1727.

Financials through January

Operating Income:	\$29,112.26
Operating Expense*:	\$32,662.93
Net Income:	(\$3,550.67)
Designated gifts:	\$11,410.00
Building loan balance:	\$510,484.56



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