

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."**



The amazing thing is that everyone who reads the Bible has the same joyful thing to say about it. In every land, in every language, it is the same tale: where that Book is read, not with the eyes only, but with the mind and heart, the life is changed. Sorrowful people are comforted, sinful people are transformed, peoples who were in the dark walk in the light. Is it not wonderful to think that this Book, which is such a mighty power if it gets a chance to work in an honest heart, is in our hands today?

Amy Carmichael

When really weak in ourselves, and conscious of that weakness, we are in the state suited to the manifestation of the power of God. When emptied of ourselves, we are filled with God. Those who think they can change their own hearts, atone for their own sins, subdue the power of evil in their own souls or in the souls of others, who feel able to sustain themselves under affliction, God leaves to their own resources. But when they feel and acknowledge their weakness, he communicates to them divine strength.

Charles Hodge

Many mistakenly think of God as if He were an insecure bully who likes to flex His heavenly muscles by putting down those who are weaker than He is. But God loves to show off His greatness and glory by being an inexhaustible source of strength to build up weak people like you and me. We honor God not by pretending to give Him what we arrogantly think He needs, but by praying for and posturing ourselves to receive all that He is and has obtained for us in Jesus.

Sam Storms



March 17, 2024

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Gene Martin*
Piano, *Ginny Coleman*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 96*

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

**All: Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!**

Pastor: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

**All: Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
We say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 97 "We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator"

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 3:7-13*

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: "The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. **8** I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. **9** Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. **10** Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. **11** I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. **12** The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. **13** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we come to you in prayer admitting that we are weak and sinful. Without your mercy toward us, we could only expect to experience your judgment. Please forgive us for our sins. Without your strength working in us, we could only expect a life of constant failure and compromise. Holy Spirit, work powerfully in us so we will die to sin and live to righteousness. Lord Jesus, without your sovereign strength working for us, we would cave under the pressures and opposition we face in life. Sustain us. We praise you and thank you for the promise of your abundant mercy, your powerful sanctifying presence, and your sustaining sovereign grace in our lives. In Christ's name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Ephesians 1:7-8*

Pastor: Being united to Jesus Christ through faith in him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. May the almighty and merciful Lord grant you forgiveness of all your sins, true repentance, transformation of life, and the grace and consolation of His Holy Spirit. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: "Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt blow through me; And my sails have all been torn
In the suffering, in the sorrow; When my sinking hopes are few
I will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; While the tempest rages on
When temptation claims the battle; And it seems the night has won
Deeper still then goes the Anchor; Though I justly stand accused
I will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; Through the floods of unbelief
 Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now; Lift your eyes to Calvary
 This my ballast of assurance; See His love forever proved
 I will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; As we face the wave of death
When these trials give way to glory; As we draw our final breath
We will cross that great horizon; Clouds behind and life secure
And the calm will be the better; For the storms that we endure

Christ the sure of our salvation; Ever faithful, ever true
We will hold fast to the Anchor: It shall never be removed (2x)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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:

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: 331

"Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 52:1-12*

1 Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean. **2** Shake yourself from the dust and arise; be seated, O Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter of Zion. **3** For thus says the Lord: "You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money." **4** For thus says the Lord God: "My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing. **5** Now therefore what have I here," declares the Lord, "seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail," declares the Lord, "and continually all the day my name is despised. **6** Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am." **7** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." **8** The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. **9** Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. **10** The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. **11** Depart, depart, go out from there; touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves, you who bear the vessels of the Lord. **12** For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: "A Greater Salvation and a Greater Exodus"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 503

"Out of My Bondage, Sorrow, and Night"

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: God meets us in the sacraments, holy acts in which his deeds elicit our response. In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection, and to unite us to him and to each other.

All: We take this food gladly, announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life and that he shall come again to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 542

"Who Are These like Stars Appearing"

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 and Youth Group

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

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study continues this Thursday at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are considering Dr. R.C. Sproul's "What is Reformed Theology?" Questions? Contact Dusty Sheppard at (205) 542-0252.

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 this Friday, March 22 at 5:30pm at Brent PCA, and all are invited!

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting immediately after worship next Sunday, March 24 for the purpose of electing new officers. The two candidates will be Robert Sheppard (elder) and Tommy Coleman (deacon).

Holy Week at Riverwood

Palm Sunday, March 24

Congregational Meeting after worship

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Communion Service at 7:00pm

Saturday, March 30

Kids Club Easter Event at 10:00am

Easter Sunday, March 31

The Son Has Risen Service at 8:30am

Easter Breakfast at 9:15am

Worship Service at 10:30am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday

March 19 Marvin Skelton

Church Work Day

To spruce up the church before Easter, we will have a church-wide workday this Saturday, March 23 from 8:00am-noon. All are welcome to come and help!

College Movie Night

All college students are invited to Dusty & Erin Sheppard's home (26421 AL Hwy 86 Gordo, AL 35466) on Saturday, March 23 at 6:30pm for a movie night.

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. John can be reached at (443) 722-1727.

Financials through February

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Operating Income: | \$53,856.50 |
| Operating Expense*: | \$66,262.19 |
| Net Income: | (\$12,405.69) |
| Designated gifts: | \$12,095.00 |
| Building loan balance: | \$504,032.64 |



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



RIVERWOODCHURCH.ORG