

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."**



If Jesus is king, we must accept him as he comes to us in this age. While Jesus will come on a war horse on the last day, until then he comes gently, on a donkey. He saves not by slaying his foes, but by dying for them.

Dan Doriani

I can relax. Although God's holiness and His law are relentlessly demanding and I cannot at any moment, live righteously enough in my own holiness to please Him, He provides a way of escape through offering His Son as a covering for my sin. Now, when I am caught in my sin, He embraces me, the sinner, as His own son. He sees me wrapped in the righteousness of His Son and loves the 'me' I am and the 'me' I will become. I can rejoice.

Tremper Longman & Dan Allender

God receives none but those who are forsaken, restores health to none but those who are sick, gives sight to none but the blind, and life to none but the dead. He does not give saintliness to any but sinners, nor wisdom to any but fools. In short: He has mercy on none but the wretched and gives grace to none but those who are in disgrace.

Martin Luther



March 24, 2024

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Gene Martin*
Piano, *Nancy Allen*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

arr. Lloyd Larson

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 98*

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

All: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Pastor: The Lord has made known his salvation;

He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

All: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 30

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

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 3:14-22*

14 And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: "The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. **15** I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! **16** So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. **17** For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. **18** I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. **19** Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. **20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. **21** The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22** 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 bow our heads and our hearts before you as we humbly confess our sins. You have created us through your power and pursued us out of your love, yet our devotion to you is often lukewarm, at best. Please forgive us. We confess that we can consider the possessions of this short life to be of greater value than the eternal blessings you give. We admit that we seek to clothe ourselves with the accomplishments, acceptance, and acquisitions this world offers instead of the righteousness you provide in Christ. Please have mercy on us. In your love, reprove us. In your mercy, forgive us. In your grace, come and communion with us. We ask this all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Revelation 7:9-10*

Pastor: Hear the good news of the salvation God Himself has secured for His bride, the church. After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Through faith in Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain, your sins are forgiven. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: "His Robes for Mine"

His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage.
Draped in His righteousness, I'm justified; In Christ I live, for in my place He died.

Chorus:

*I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost: Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.
Bought by such love, my life is not my own. My praise—my all—shall be for Christ alone.*

His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
 God's daunting Law Christ mastered in my stead.
 Faultless I stand with righteous works not mine, Saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life.

His robes for mine: God's justice is appeased.
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "'Tis done!" Sin's wage is paid; propitiation won.

His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.
Christ, God's beloved, condemned as though His foe.
He, as though I, accursed and left alone; I, as though He, embraced and welcomed home!

Words and music by Chris Anderson and Craig Habegger
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"'Tis Midnight and on Olive's Brow"

William B. Bradbury

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: *Westminster Larger Catechism, #46, 49*

Leader: What was the estate of Christ's humiliation?

All: The estate of Christ's humiliation was that low condition, wherein he for our sakes, emptying himself of his glory, took upon him the form of a servant, in his conception and birth, life, death, and after his death, until his resurrection.

Leader: How did Christ humble himself in his death?

All: Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors; having also conflicted with the terrors of death, and the powers of darkness, felt and borne the weight of God's wrath, he laid down his life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the 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: 145

"The Spirit Breathes upon the Word"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 52:13-53:9*

13 Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. **14** As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— **15** so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. **1** Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? **2** For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. **3** He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. **4** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. **8** By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? **9** And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: “The Arm of the Lord Revealed”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 247

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

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: 420

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

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

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting immediately after worship today for the purpose of electing new officers.

Covenant Kids and Youth Group

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

Corporate Prayer

Everyone is encouraged to join us for corporate prayer this Wednesday, March 27 at 5pm. We will meet in the conference room in the Administrative Building. Come when you can and stay for as long as you are able.

Maundy Thursday

This Thursday, March 28, at 7:00pm, Riverwood Church will worship at our traditional Maundy Thursday Communion service. The service remembers the night the Lord was betrayed and met with His disciples and instituted Holy Communion. Join us in worship as we remember and anticipate the great celebration of Easter and the Resurrection.

Covenant Kids Easter Event

This Saturday, March 30 from 10:00am-12:00pm

Children from K5-5th grade are welcome to join us to learn more about why we celebrate Easter. Games, snacks, surprises, and the Easter Story will all be part of this day. Bring a Friend!!

Easter Services and Breakfast

Next Sunday, March 31, we will meet at 8:30 am for a short "The Son Has Risen" service followed by a congregation-wide breakfast that will get started at approximately 9:15. See your weekly announcement email for a link to sign up to help serve or provide food. After breakfast, we will gather for corporate worship beginning at 10:30 am. There will not be any evening activities on Easter Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthdays

March 27 Linda Graham

March 28 Tammy Bell

March 28 Vielyana Kim

I DO BBQ!

Everyone is invited to a wedding shower celebrating Todd Quinn and Mercedes Childers on Sunday, April 7 from 5:30-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. A barbeque dinner will be provided. Todd & Mercedes are registered at Lowe's.

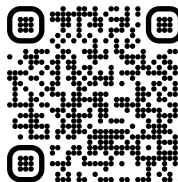
Pier Groups

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



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