

R E S T I N G • R E N E W E D • R E S P O N D I N G

# RIVERLEAF WOOD

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H • T U S C A L O O S A , A L A B A M A

# 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."**



Come to the waters, whoever is thirsty;  
Drink from the Fountain that never runs dry.  
Jesus, the Living One, offers you mercy,  
Life more abundant in boundless supply.

Come to the Fountain without any money;  
Forth from the throne of the Father and Son.  
Jesus the Savior says, "Come and drink deeply."  
Drink from the pure, inexhaustible One.

Come to the Well of unmerited favor;  
Stretch out your hand; fill your cup to the brim.  
Jesus is such a compassionate Savior.  
Draw from the grace that flows freely from him.

James Montgomery Boice

The road is rugged, and the sun is hot. How can we be but weary? Here is grace for the weariness – grace which lifts us up and invigorates us; grace which keeps us from fainting by the way; grace which supplies us with manna from heaven, and with water from the smitten rock. We receive of this grace, and are revived. Our weariness of heart and limb departs. We need no other refreshment. This is enough. Whatever the way be – rough, gloomy, unpleasant – we press forward, knowing that the same grace that has already carried thousands through will do the same for us.

Horatius Bonar



April 21, 2024

10:30 Worship Service

**Leaders In Worship:** Pastor, *Jeff Pate*  
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*  
Piano, *Joann Williams*

## WELCOME

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

## PRELUDE

## PRAISE

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 50*

Pastor: The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

**All: Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.**

Pastor: God declares, "For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

**All: The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

### HYMN: 316

"The Mighty God, the Lord"

### 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

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**SCRIPTURE READING:**     2 *Timothy* 3:10-17

**10** You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, **11** my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. **12** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, **13** while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it **15** and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Leader:                This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:                    Thanks be to God!**

## **CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**Lord Jesus, you have called those who believe in you to take up their cross and follow you. While we profess you as Savior and Lord with our lips, we also confess that we can deny you with our lives. Have mercy on us for the difference between our creed and our conduct, our profession and our practice. Please forgive us for the fear of man and the fear of being uncomfortable or opposed. Holy Spirit, fix our hope and our faith on Jesus and help us to continue to grow in the knowledge of your Word. Through it teach us, reprove us, correct and train us in righteousness. We know that you will finish what you have begun so we ask this with confidence in your grace and steadfast love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## **SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION**

# RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** *from Ephesians 1*

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

**All: In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.**

Pastor: 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 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

## **HYMN:** "Reformation Hymn"

1. Your word alone is solid ground, the mighty rock on which we build.  
In every line the truth is found, and every page with glory filled.
2. Through faith alone we come to you, we have no merit we can claim,  
sure that your promises are true, we place our hope in Jesus' name.

### *Chorus:*

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone. Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

3. In Christ alone we're justified, his righteousness is all our plea.  
Your law's demands are satisfied, his perfect work has set us free.

### *Chorus*

4. By grace alone we have been saved, all that we are has come from you.  
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved, now by your pow'r have been made new.

### *Chorus*

# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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## 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:**            *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.

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Adam Miramontes Nguyen

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

**HYMN: 337**

"O Spirit of the Living God"

# RECEIVING THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:**     *Isaiah 55*

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

**SERMON:**                             "The Lord's Invitation"                             *Rev. Jeff Pate*

**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

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## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**All: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.**

Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**All: The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

Pastor: Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**HYMN: 715** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

## 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

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## **Covenant Kids Club & Youth Group**

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

## **Bridal Shower**

You are invited to a bridal shower honoring Chanley Henson today from 2:00-4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Visit [theknot.com/nickandchanley](http://theknot.com/nickandchanley) to see her gift registries.

## **Corporate Prayer**

Everyone is encouraged to join us for corporate prayer this Wednesday, April 24 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.

## **College Student Study Days!**

College students, come study for finals at Riverwood Church and enjoy free coffee, snacks, and lunch from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Lunch will be served beginning at 12.

- Saturday, April 27 in the Administrative Building and Youth Barn
- Monday, April 29 in the Fellowship Hall and Classrooms
- Tuesday, April 30 in the Fellowship Hall and Classrooms

Riverwood family, look for the signup genius coming soon in the weekly email to help provide lunch or snacks for the students.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Happy Birthday

April 23 Mickey DeHaan

April 24 Jeff Pate

## Other Events

Weekly on Thursdays at 6:00pm: Men's Bible Study

## 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 March

Operating Income:	\$87,925.74
Operating Expense*:	\$104,983.73
Net Income:	(\$17,057.99)
Designated gifts:	\$14,545.00
Building loan balance:	\$497,459.52



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