

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, and apostolic church. That means that we trace our roots back through the Protestant Reformation, the historic confessions, catechisms, and creeds of the church, all the way back to the teachings of the apostles. In all of this, our ultimate authority is 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:

**"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."**





December 28, 2025

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*  
Assisting Elder, *Gene Martin*  
Piano, *Joann Williams*

## WELCOME

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

## PRELUDE

## PRAISE

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 98 & John 1*

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**All: The Lord has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**All: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

### HYMN: 208

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

## 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:**     *Exodus 20:7-12*

**7** "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. **8** Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. **11** For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. **12** Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

Leader:               This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:                   Thanks be to God!**

## **CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**Almighty God, you are rich in mercy to all those who call on you. Hear us as we come to you humbly confessing our sins and imploring your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken your holy laws by our actions, by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before you our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness, and all our failures and shortcomings toward you and toward one another. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. According to your great goodness grant that we might serve and please you in newness of life, through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

# RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** 1 Timothy 1:15 & Acts 10:43

Pastor: Lift your heads and hear this trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners!* By God's grace, everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through his name. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

## **HYMN:** 213

"What Child Is This"

## **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:** Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A #1

Pastor: Christian, what is your only comfort in life and death?

**All:** **That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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**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:** "Reformation Song"

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*

Text and music by Tim Chester and Bob Kauflin  
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## RECEIVING THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:**        *John 8:12-20*

**12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." **13** So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." **14** Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. **15** You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. **16** Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. **17** In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. **18** I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." **19** They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." **20** These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

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

**SERMON:**                "Jesus, Our Savior Coming and Going"

*Rev. Jeff Pate*

**HYMN:** "Before the Throne of God Above"

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea;  
a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart.  
I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see him there, who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
for God the just is satisfied, to look on him and pardon me,  
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,  
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace.  
One with Himself, I cannot die; my soul is purchased by his blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,  
with Christ my Savior and my God.

Words by Charitie Bancroft; Music by Vikki Cook  
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# COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Pastor: He forgives all your iniquity, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

**All: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.**

Pastor: And because we are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Let us eat the feast with thankful hearts as God's redeemed and beloved children.

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**HYMN: 207**

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

## BENEDICTION

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## 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)

## **Happy Birthday**

January 3 Ken Gilbert

## **Sunday School Resumes Next Week**

Sunday school classes did not meet today but will resume next Sunday, January 4.

## **Church Office Closed**

Due to the holidays, the church office will be closed this week. Regular hours resume the week of Monday, January 5.

## **2025 Contributions**

If you are planning to give before the end of the calendar year, please ensure that your gifts make it into the offering plate by today or are postmarked by Wednesday, December 31. Any contributions received after that date will be posted to 2026.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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. Though these groups will be taking a break from meeting during the coming weeks, they will resume in the new year.

## Nursery Schedule

December 28: Janalie Graham & Nora Crawford  
January 4: George & Joanie Norris

## Riverwood Church Officers

### *Elders:*

John Kim  
Gene Martin  
Jeff Pate  
Dusty Sheppard

### *Elders Emeritus:*

Bob Prince  
Robert Sheppard

### *Deacons:*

Tommy Coleman  
Steven Crawford  
Bruce DeHaan  
Ed Kidder  
Steve Patridge  
Marvin Skelton

### Financials through November

Operating Income:	\$352,747.29
Operating Expense:	\$353,289.98
Net Income:	(\$542.69)
Designated gifts:	\$40,975.00
Building loan balance:	\$350,531.60



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