

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."**





September 20, 2026

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Gene Martin*
Piano, *Ginny Coleman*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 84*

Pastor: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

**All: My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Pastor: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

**All: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 700

"Come, We That Love 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

SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 45:20-25*

20 "Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. **21** Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. **22** Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. **23** By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.' **24** Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. **25** In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you. We have made idols of possessions and people and even our own accomplishments. We acknowledge that apart from your grace even our best deeds are like filthy rags. We have loved your gifts more than you and craved for glory apart from you. Have mercy on us. Forgive us for the times we have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships. We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented others' intentions. Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory. Help us worship you in Spirit and in truth, and learn to live together according to your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Hebrews 12*

Pastor: Hear the good news! By God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, your sins have been forgiven. Now, as you come to worship in Jesus's name, "you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel." The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 181

"We Come, O Christ, to You"

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Nicene Creed*

Christians, what do you believe?

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Prayer for RUF staff

RECEIVING THE WORD

HYMN:

"Holy Spirit"

Holy Spirit, living breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord, to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; Give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for Your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within, may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin, in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace; Breath of God show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth, cause Your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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SCRIPTURE: *John 14:1-6*

1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. **2** In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. **4** And you know the way to where I am going." **5** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" **6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

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

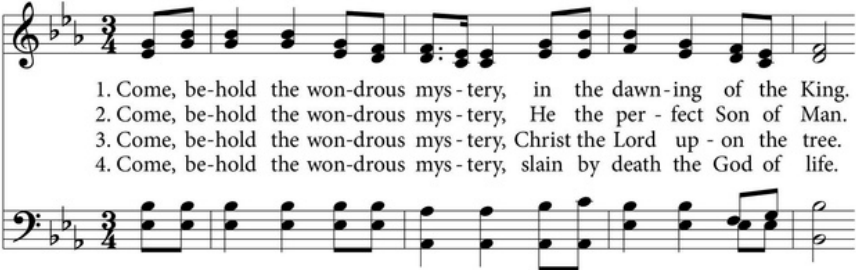
SERMON:

"Trusting the Way Home"

Rev. Jeff Pate

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

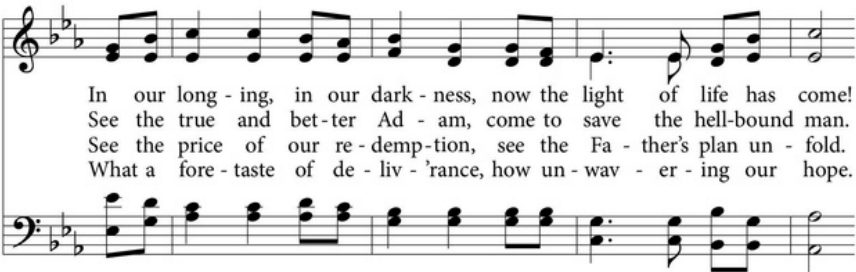
*...but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God
predestined before the ages to our glory. 1 Corinthians 2:7*



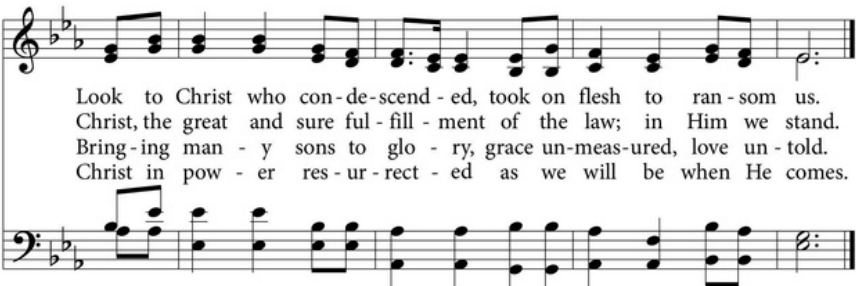
1. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - tery, in the dawn-ing of the King.
2. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - tery, He the per - fect Son of Man.
3. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - tery, Christ the Lord up - on the tree.
4. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - tery, slain by death the God of life.



He, the theme of heav-en's prais - es, robed in frail hu-man - i - ty.
In His liv - ing, in His suf - fering, nev - er trace nor stain of sin.
In the stead of ru - ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic - tor - y.
But no grave could e'er re - strain Him; praise the Lord; He is a - live!



In our long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has come!
See the true and bet - ter Ad - am, come to save the hell-bound man.
See the price of our re - demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan un - fold.
What a fore - taste of de - liv - 'rance, how un - wav - er - ing our hope.



Look to Christ who con-de-scent - ed, took on flesh to ran - som us.
Christ, the great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law; in Him we stand.
Bring - ing man - y sons to glo - ry, grace un-meas - ured, love un - told.
Christ in pow - er res - ur - rect - ed as we will be when He comes.

TEXT and MUSIC: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker

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COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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: 358

"For All the Saints"

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)

Happy Birthdays

September 20 Nancy Zheng
September 21 Steve Patridge
September 26 Vera Bell

Sunday Evening Worship

Our celebration of the Lord's Day now includes evening worship meeting at 5pm in the fellowship hall. Evening worship is a time of mutual encouragement through Scripture reading, preaching, singing, and corporate prayer. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring a friend.

Wednesday Evening Meal and Studies

Our Wednesday evenings at Riverwood provide a great opportunity to grow in Christian fellowship and knowledge of God's Word. There is a meal provided for anyone who would like to come at 5:30pm (please see your email on Friday to RSVP for dinner). Following the meal, there are discipleship opportunities through Youth Group, a Ladies' Bible Study, a Men's study, Children's Catechism, and a co-ed Pier Group. Please pray that God will bless our efforts to equip the saints and grow in Christian community.

Join College Students for Lunch and Prayer Time

College students gather each Lord's Day after worship for prayer and lunch. We want you to have an opportunity to support their fellowship and be encouraged by it. There will be three Sundays this fall that other congregants can provide food for their lunch, pray with them, and spend time getting to know one another better. If you are interested in supporting this wonderful fellowship on September 27 or October 11, contact Lorrie Pate (205-771-0158). If you are able to support this gathering on November 1, contact Vielyana Kim (205-239-3101).

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. There are three Pier Groups currently meeting:

- Martins on Mondays in the Sheppards' home (1513 Heritage Dr, 35406) @ noon. For more info contact Gene at (205) 614-2781.
- Pates on Wednesdays at Riverwood @ 6:30 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.

Nursery Schedule

September 20: Katie Gill & Nora Crawford
September 27: Erin Sheppard & Halsie Bardin

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 August

Operating Income:	\$241,561.98
Operating Expense:	\$262,483.17
Net Income:	(\$20,921.19)
Designated gifts:	\$68,032.30
Building loan balance:	\$206,982.82



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



RIVERWOODCHURCH.ORG