

# REFLECTIONS

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In the death of Christ I died; I experienced the doom of sin; everything that the guilt of sin merits from the wrath of God was fulfilled in the death I died in Christ. It is this objective fact which is the supreme manifestation of God's love and which is to be the controlling center of my life, and the quality of this love is derived from the fact that Christ's death was not his own; it was mine. He died not only as my representative; he died *in my stead*, for it is because of his death that I shall be spared that death. He has died in my behalf and in my place.

George Eldon Ladd  
from *A Theology of the New Testament*

Imagine, for a moment, the reaction of Hell to the death of Christ. Jesus was bound with the bands of death. What celebration and joy! God was defeated! Vengeance was the Devil's. But they reckoned without the wisdom of God. For Christ could not be held down by the bands of death. In fact through death He was paralyzing the one who had the power of death, and He was setting His people free (Heb. 2:14-15). What seemed to be defeat was actually victory. The Resurrection morning was Hell's gloomiest day. Satan saw the wisdom of God and tasted defeat.

Sinclair Ferguson  
from *A Heart for God*

*Sing choirs of new Jerusalem, your sweetest notes employ  
the paschal victory to hymn in songs of holy joy!  
For Judah's Lion has burst his chains and crushed the serpent's head;  
Christ cries aloud through death's domains to wake the imprisoned dead.  
Triumphant in his glory now - to him all power is given;  
to him in one communion bow all saints in earth and heaven.  
All glory to the Father be, all glory to the Son,  
all glory to the Spirit be while endless ages run.*

Fulbert of Chartres, 10<sup>th</sup> Century AD

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## T U S C A L O O S A , A L A B A M A

April 17, 2022 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Resurrection Sunday

Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Dusty Sheppard  
Linda Graham, piano

### WELCOME

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

### PRELUDE

## PRAISE

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *based on Psalm 91:2; Romans 10:9,10*

Pastor: He is risen!

**All: He is risen, indeed!**

Pastor: Let us worship our triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All: He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.**

Pastor: Let us confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord,"  
and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.

**All: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**

Pastor: Let us call upon the name of our true God, believing him in our hearts,  
confessing him with our mouths, worshiping him in spirit and in truth.  
Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 277 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today," *Alleluia!*  
 Sons of men and angels say; *Alleluia!*  
 Raise your joys and triumphs high; *Alleluia!*  
 Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply. *Alleluia!*

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; *Alleluia!*  
 Christ has burst the gates of hell: *Alleluia!*  
 Death in vain forbids his rise; *Alleluia!*  
 Christ has opened paradise. *Alleluia!*

Lives again our glorious King; *Alleluia!*  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? *Alleluia!*  
 Once he died, our souls to save; *Alleluia!*  
 Where thy victory, O grave? *Alleluia!*

Soar we now where Christ has led, *Alleluia!*  
 Foll'wing our exalted Head; *Alleluia!*  
 Made like him, like him we rise; *Alleluia!*  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, *Alleluia!*

Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! *Alleluia!*  
 Praise to thee by both be giv'n; *Alleluia!*  
 Thee we greet triumphant now; *Alleluia!*  
 Hail, the Resurrection, thou! *Alleluia!*

#### 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

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## SCRIPTURE READING: *Deuteronomy 30:11-20*

“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ <sup>14</sup> But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. <sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

All: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer. We confess that though you set before us life and good, our hearts are drawn to death and evil. You have given us your eternal word and have spoken to us through your Son, but we still choose to trust ourselves and our thoughts instead of hearing you. Heavenly Father, you have promised to bless us and assured us of your love but our hearts still turn away after idols that demand much but offer little. Please forgive us. We are bold in asking for your mercy only because we come by faith in Jesus Christ and look to his sacrifice alone for the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

# GOSPEL ASSURANCE

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**WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** *Hebrews 7:24,25; Ephesians 1:7,19,20*

Pastor: Because our risen Savior lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. Through faith in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and you have been brought near to God.

**All: In Jesus Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.**

Pastor: May you know what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

**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 to 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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## OFFERTORY PRAYER / OFFERTORY

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator 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 to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to 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.

# PRAYER & SUPPLICATION

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## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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 ev'ry sin  
in each thought and deed and attitude.  
Kindness to the greatest and the least;  
gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving 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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# READING & PREACHING THE WORD

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SCRIPTURE: *Romans 6*

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

<sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. <sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

<sup>21</sup> But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

SERMON:

“Risen, Indeed”

Rev. Jeff Pate

*Some important background in Romans 1-5...real grace for real sinners.*

*If Jesus's death and resurrection have secured my salvation, what is the purpose of my life?  
Does it matter what I do or how I live? How should I view my life now? Consider yourselves...*

I. Dead and buried

II. Alive and raised

III. Freed slaves

IV. People living in a new age under the dominion of the risen Lord

“Dying and rising with Christ means death to the old aeon of sin and death, and participation in the new aeon of life and righteousness. The death and resurrection of Christ were not merely events in past history but eschatological events. By death and resurrection Christ introduced a new aeon.” George Eldon Ladd

# COMMUNION

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HYMN: 469 “How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place”

How sweet and awesome is the place with Christ within the doors,  
while everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,  
each of us cries, with thankful tongue, “Lord, why was I a guest?”

“Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there’s room,  
when thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?”

‘Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us in;  
else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God, constrain the earth to come;  
send your victorious Word abroad, and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full, that all the chosen race  
may, with one voice and heart and soul, sing your redeeming grace.

## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

# BENEDICTION

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HYMN: 286 “Worship Christ, the Risen King!”

Rise, O church, and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.

Sing as all the earth rejoices; resurrection anthems swell.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

See the tomb where death had laid him, empty now, its mouth declares:

“Death and I could not contain him, for the throne of life he shares.”

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with pow'r;

all hell's minions may assemble, but cannot withstand this hour.

He has conquered, he has conquered, Christ the Lord, the risen King!

Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer;  
but the truth proclaims a wonder thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.

He is risen, he is risen, now receive the risen King!

We acclaim your life, O Jesus, now we sing your victory;

sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your conquest keeps us free.

Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ, the risen King!

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

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR RESURRECTION WEEK

Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18

## COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids and Riverwood Youth will meet not tonight.

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who contributed Easter Baskets for Wings of Grace and snacks for Children's Ministry.

## RIDGE HAVEN SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON AND BAKE SALE - APRIL 24TH

Immediately following the morning worship service on April 24th, our Ridge Haven campers will serving a Lasagna Luncheon they prepared for you to enjoy. We will be collecting donations of any amount at the door. EVERYONE, whether you can make a donation or not, is invited for a time of Fellowship and great Lasagna. There will also be a Bake Sale during the same time period. There is a rumor that a white chocolate, raspberry cheesecake will be available for sale. This year's campers are Elliot, Emory, Lundy, Hanson, Alexa, Sarah, Tristen, Edith, Eliza Kate, Abigail, Claude, and Warren.

Covenant Kids will not meet next Sunday (April 24). Riverwood Youth will meet.

## HOMELESS CONNECT WITH LOVE INC

You can make a difference in our local homeless community on April 30. For more information go to [www.loveinctuscaloosa.com/homeless-connect/550-2/](http://www.loveinctuscaloosa.com/homeless-connect/550-2/)

## SECRET CHURCH

If you are interested in joining with other believers for an evening of in depth study in God's Word, go to <https://hopecitytuscaloosa.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1261841>

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 24 Ridgehaven Fundraiser Luncheon and Bake Sale

<i>Through March 2022</i>		<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>	
Operating Income:	\$119,326.63	April 17	Phoebe Bell
Operating Expense*:	\$120,466.92	April 18	Elena Arnold
Net Income:	(\$1,140.29)	April 18	Regina DeWitt
Designated gifts:	\$42,990.36	April 23	Mickey DeHaan
Building loan balance:	\$686,898.83		

\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment