

There is a center to the Bible and its message of grace. It is found in Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. Grace must therefore be preached in a way that is centered and focused on Jesus Christ Himself, never offering the benefits of the gospel without the Benefactor Himself.

Sinclair Ferguson

Measure not God's love and favour by your own feeling. The sun shines as clearly in the darkest day as it does in the brightest. The difference is not in the sun, but in some clouds which hinder the manifestation of the light thereof.

Richard Sibbes

Personal working for souls is good. Giving money is good. But praying is best of all. By prayer we reach Him without whom work and money are alike in vain. We obtain the aid of the Holy Spirit. Money can hire workers. Universities can give learning. Congregations may elect. Bishops may ordain. But the Holy Spirit alone can make ministers of the Gospel, and raise up lay workmen in the spiritual harvest, who need not be ashamed. Never, never may we forget that if we would do good to the world, our first duty is to pray!

J. C. Ryle

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

April 18, 2021 • 8:30 & 11:00 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Third Sunday of Easter

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton  
Joann Williams, piano

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim  
Linda Graham, piano

### WELCOME

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

### PRELUDE

*Please use this time for prayer and meditation as we prepare to go before the living God in worship.*

## PRAISE

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### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 29*

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**

Pastor: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

**All: May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

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HYMN: 45 “Now unto Jehovah, Ye Sons of the Mighty”

Now unto Jehovah, ye sons of the mighty,  
all glory and strength and dominion accord;  
ascribe to him glory, and render him honor.  
In beauty of holiness worship the Lord,  
in beauty of holiness worship the Lord.

The voice of Jehovah comes down on the waters;  
in thunder the God of the glory draws nigh.  
Lo, over the waves of the wide-flowing waters  
Jehovah as King is enthroned on high!  
Jehovah as King is enthroned on high!

The voice of Jehovah is mighty, is mighty;  
the voice of Jehovah in majesty speaks:  
the voice of Jehovah the cedars is breaking;  
Jehovah the cedars of Lebanon breaks,  
Jehovah the cedars of Lebanon breaks.

Each one in His temple His glory proclaimeth.  
He sat on the flood; he is King on his throne.  
Jehovah all strength to his people imparteth;  
Jehovah with peace ever blesseth his own,  
Jehovah with peace ever blesseth his own.

#### 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: *Exodus 19:1-6*

<sup>1</sup>On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. <sup>2</sup>They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, <sup>3</sup>while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup>and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Almighty God, we are gathered together to worship you today. As we worship, we confess that our hearts are often divided in devotion, our minds consumed with worldly concerns, our affections bent toward personal glory and our time spent in selfish pursuits. If left in our sinfulness, we would trample your courts, bringing vain offerings and practicing worthless religion. Wash us. Cleanse us with the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. Change us. Holy Spirit abiding in us, make us like our Savior who is obedient, just, merciful, and compassionate. In his name we pray, amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

# CONFESSION

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**WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** *Isaiah 1:18; 1 Corinthians 6:11*

**Pastor:** Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. Through faith in God's Son, you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. May the peace of God be with you all.

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

**HYMN: 164** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of reigning sin, he sets the pris'ner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosen'd tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

## OFFERING

*\*Tithes and offerings will be collected by deacons following the morning service as congregants leave the sanctuary.*

## 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.

## MISSIONS MOMENT & PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 627 “Behold the Throne of Grace!” (*to the tune of “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”*)

Behold the throne of grace!  
The promise calls me near:  
there Jesus shows a smiling face,  
and waits to answer prayer.

My soul, ask what thou wilt;  
thou canst not be too bold;  
since his own blood for thee he spilt,  
what else can he withhold?

Thine image, Lord, bestow,  
thy presence and thy love;  
I ask to serve thee here below,  
and reign with thee above.

Teach me to live by faith;  
conform my will to thine;  
let me victorious be in death,  
and then in glory shine.





HYMN: 480 “Come, for the Feast Is Spread”

Come, for the feast is spread, hark to the call;  
 come to the Living Bread, offered to all.  
 Come to his house of wine, low on his breast recline,  
 all that he has is thine; come, sinner, come.

Come, where the fountain flows, river of life;  
 healing for all thy woes, doubting, and strife.  
 Millions have been supplied, no one was e’er denied,  
 come to the crimson tide; come, sinner, come.

Come to the throne of grace, boldly draw near;  
 he who would win the race must tarry here.  
 Whate’er thy want may be, here is the grace for thee,  
 Jesus thine only plea; come, Christian, come.

## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Pastor: With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth,  
 made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—  
 even when we fell into sin.

**All: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and  
 resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

Pastor: Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole  
 creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full  
 of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

*Riverwood Presbyterian uses wine in the celebration of Holy Communion. If you would prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take a cup from the inner circle of the tray.*

# BENEDICTION

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HYMN: “Facing a Task Unfinished”

Facing a task unfinished that drives us to our knees  
A need that, undiminished, rebukes our slothful ease  
We, who rejoice to know Thee, renew before Thy throne  
The solemn pledge we owe Thee to go and make Thee known.

Where other lords beside Thee hold their unhindered sway  
Where forces that defied Thee defy Thee still today  
With none to heed their crying for life, and love, and light  
Unnumbered souls are dying and pass into the night.

We bear the torch that flaming fell from the hands of those  
Who gave their lives proclaiming that Jesus died and rose  
Ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours  
Fired by the same ambition, to Thee we yield our powers.

O Father who sustained them, O Spirit who inspired  
Savior, whose love constrained them to toil with zeal untired  
From cowardice defend us, from lethargy awake!  
Forth on Thine errands send us to labor for Thy sake.

Original words by Frank Houghton, music by Samuel Wesley  
New words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ed Cash, and Fionan de Barra  
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BENEDICTION

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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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 18 Elena Arnold  
April 18 Regina DeWitt  
April 23 Mickey DeHaan  
April 24 Jeff Pate

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

## COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

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

## WEDDING SHOWER

Join us today at 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for a wedding shower celebrating the upcoming marriage of Gracen Miller & Eli Bell. Gracen & Eli will be moving shortly after the wedding, so gift cards are preferred.

## HELP SEND A CHILD TO RIDGE HAVEN CAMP

We have 10 children going to Ridge Haven Camp this summer. Ridge Haven is operated by the PCA in Brevard, NC. To donate any amount, please write "R. H. Camper" in the memo line of your check. If you have any questions, please contact Joann Williams (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

## CARDS FOR NELLE DOUGLAS

Nelle Douglas is going through a difficult time with health issues and mild dementia. At this time, they are requesting no visits or meals, but she would appreciate some cards that are cheerful, fun, uplifting, or even musical! Her address is 2025 Fox Ridge Rd, 35406.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Next Sunday, April 25, the adult Sunday School class that meets in the Fellowship Hall will begin a study of the book of Revelation.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Through March 2021*

Operating Income:	\$100,723.48
Operating Expense*:	\$102,640.39
Net Income:	(\$1,916.91)
Designated gifts:	\$6,498.00
Building loan balance:	\$692,979.19

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*