

# REFLECTIONS

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In the upper room on the night of the Passover, Jesus decided that the great mystery of the Trinity was the teaching His disciples most needed to hear (cf. John 13-17). Why was this truth so important? Because Jesus wanted His disciples, and us, to come to know God, in all the riches and fullness of His being. He wanted us to know God in His eternal glory and to recognize how great He is; but He also wanted us to see that the God whose being we cannot comprehend is also the God who is a Father who loves us, a Son who came to die for us, a Spirit who brings us into God's heart and who brings God into our hearts.

Sinclair B. Ferguson

For as God is infinitely the greatest Being, so he is allowed to be infinitely the most beautiful and excellent; and all the beauty to be found throughout the whole creation is but the reflection of the diffused beams of that Being...the foundation and fountain of all being and all beauty.

Jonathan Edwards

On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews.

Annie Dillard

...it's impossible not to be confessional. Everyone is confessional; now, whether it's written and whether it's biblical is another matter. And everyone is a theologian, even the people who say theology is bad.

Ligon Duncan

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

August 18, 2019 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin  
Dr. Linda Graham, piano

#### WELCOME

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

#### PRELUDE

*As the Deer*

Martin J. Nystrom

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

## PRAISE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 68*

Pastor: God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;  
and those who hate him shall flee before him!

All: **But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God;  
they shall be jubilant with joy!**

Pastor: Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides  
through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him!

All: **Father of the fatherless and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.**

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.  
Come, let us worship!

HYMN OF PRAISE: 442 "Arise, O God"

#### 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

SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 45:18-25*

<sup>18</sup>For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the Lord, and there is no other. <sup>19</sup>I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek me in vain.' I the Lord speak the truth; I declare what is right. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. <sup>23</sup>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.' <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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:

Almighty God, you are the Lord who created the heavens and formed the earth. You alone are the living and true God and you have rightly declared, "I am the Lord, and there is no other." We come in response to your declaration and self-revelation as people created by you and for your glory. Please forgive us for placing our trust in idols of our own making, and committing our allegiance to false gods that cannot save. Please have mercy on us for seeking life in the accumulation of wealth, popularity, the praise of others, worldly success, outward beauty and the pursuit of fleeting pleasure. We have made idols of your gifts instead of worshiping and trusting you, the Giver. Help us to repent by loving and following our Savior with humility, zeal and joy. We ask this as your adopted and loved children who you have redeemed through your Son, Jesus Christ. It's in his name we pray, Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Titus 3*

Pastor: Remember the promises of the gospel for those who believe. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

All: But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 691 “It Is Well with My Soul”

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *In Christ Alone* Townend & Getty  
Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Westminster Larger Catechism #2, 7-9*

Leader: How does it appear that there is a God?  
All: **The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but only his word and Spirit sufficiently and effectually reveal him to men for their salvation.**

Leader: What is God?  
All: **God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.**

Leader: Are there more Gods than one?  
All: **There is but one only, the living and true God.**

Leader: How many persons are there in the Godhead?  
All: **There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties.**

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 331 “Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit”

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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SCRIPTURE: *John 14:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>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? <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

SERMON: “The God We Believe In: The Father Almighty”

Rev. Jeff Pate

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## COMMUNION

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HYMN: 642 “Be Thou My Vision”

### RESPONSIVE READING:

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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

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

Minister: The gifts of God are for the people of God.

### 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: 75 “O Father, You Are Sovereign”

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSING HYMN: 263 “Lift High the Cross” v. 4

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### END OF SUMMER SPLASH PARTY

**Everyone** is invited to a summer cook-out and splash party behind the Fellowship Hall tonight at 5:30pm. Children's and Youth ministry will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and the respective fixings. Please bring a side dish to share and drinks for your family. Also bring a lawn chair if you have one! There will be the giant slip and slide, pool for toddlers, water balloons, and other water related activities. This is a sweet time of fellowship for the entire church family and great way to kick off the new academic year.

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

### YOUTH GROUP BACK IN ACTION

Riverwood Youth will meet next Sunday (Aug. 25) from 5:30-7:30pm. We will introduce two new YODA's (youth director assistants) and begin the fall with playing, studying, singing, serving, and praying.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

August 20 Peter Bell  
August 20 Victoria Bell  
August 20 Bruce Brown

## COVENANT KIDS CLUB RESUMES NEXT WEEK

Children 5 - 12 years old, join us in the Fellowship Hall for Covenant Kid's Club beginning next Sunday, August 25, from 5:30-7:00pm. Besides play time, we will have music, snacks and a study of God's word designed just for you. This fall we will start with a 4 week series on prayer and then continue in the Old Testament with 1 Samuel.

## CHILDREN'S CATECHISM CLASSES

We would like to invite your children (ages 5-12) to join us for Catechism on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 -5:00pm. To "catechize" means to instruct by means of questions and answers. Through the use of questions and answers and memorization, we will teach your child the primary doctrines of our faith, as well as Scriptures to support them. We utilize the small Children's Catechism and the teaching materials developed by Children's Ministry International, Inc. This academic year the children will be learning questions that cover the Doctrine of Salvation - justification and sanctification; the role of the Holy Spirit in our life and Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King. Catechism began last week and continues through the school year.

## CATECHISM SNACK DONATIONS

Snack donations needed! We will be providing snacks for approximately 25 - 30 children each Wednesday at catechism. We need juice boxes (e.g. Capri Suns, KoolAid) and individual snack items. Please no peanuts. If you can help, there is a box in the foyer of the Sanctuary to collect these items.

## QUILT FOR THE URBANS

We are making a signature/memory quilt for Lowell and Monica Urban. If you would like to participate, there are blocks and pens in the foyer of the Sanctuary. Using the pens provided, please write a brief message or an encouraging word or simply sign your name on one of the blocks. If you know someone who would like to leave a message but who is no longer at Riverwood, please let Joann Williams know and she will make arrangements to get their message on a block. We will be collecting blocks through Sunday Sept. 1.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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At Riverwood Presbyterian Church we have Sunday School at 9:30am for all age groups.

**MEETING DOWNSTAIRS:**

Nursery: Multi-Staffed  
2-3 year olds: Janalie Graham & Joanie Norris  
4-5 year olds: Lorrie Pate

**MEETING UPSTAIRS:**

Grades 1-3: Lisa Kidder  
Grades 4-6: Ginny Nippert

**MEETING IN THE BARN:**

Youth Class: Ben & Meg Sigmon

**MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:**

Adult Class - The Life of David - led by elders

**MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:**

Adult Class - *The Legacy Journey* by Dave Ramsey - led by Gene Martin

## MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

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**NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:**

August 18: Lisa Kidder / Katharine Bedsole & Sumlin Pate / Parker Pate  
August 25: Michael Henry / Lorrie Pate / Daniel Page & Olivia Patridge / Meredith Patridge

**AUGUST DEACON SCHEDULE:**

Head Deacon: Dusty Sheppard  
Clean Up: Steve Patridge

## FINANCIAL REPORT

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*Through July 2019:*

Operating Income:	\$239,722.24
Operating Expense*:	\$235,941.61
Net Income:	\$3,780.63
Designated gifts:	\$63,581.52
Building loan balance:	\$826,250.47

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*