

The Ancient of Days has become an infant. He who sits upon the sublime and heavenly throne now lies in a manger. And he who cannot be touched ... now lies subject to human hands.

John Chrysostom (347-407)

Welcome, all wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span!
Summer in winter, day in night! Heaven in earth, and God in man!
Great little One! whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Richard Crashaw (1613-1649)

If God had been formed in Mary's virgin womb without a fully human nature, Mary could not have survived the experience. If God the Son had not clothed Himself in flesh, His glory would have instantly turned Pharisee and fisherman alike to ash. But instead, prostitutes approach Him and sinners eat with Him. Here we see God playing the bartender at a wedding reception and screaming in outrage over the unnatural horror of death.

Michael Horton
from *In the Face of God*

Despite our efforts to keep him out, God intrudes. The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: a virgin womb and an empty tomb. Jesus entered our world through a door marked "No Entrance" and left through a door marked "No Exit."

Peter Larson
from *Prism*

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

August 25, 2019 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Eleventh 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

This Is My Father's World/This Is the Day

arr. Jay Rouse

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

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: from Isaiah 12 & Hebrews 12

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

**All: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.**

Pastor: 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,

All: ...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.

Pastor: Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Come, let us worship!

HYMN OF PRAISE: 53 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

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 64:1-6*

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we bow before you, who came down in the person of Jesus Christ and abides within us now through the Holy Spirit. You are the Living God and besides you there is no other. We confess to you our unrighteous deeds, sinful attitudes and selfish words. The wickedness of our actions and thoughts are exposed by the holiness of your word and the knowledge of your presence. Please forgive us as we call out to you through faith in Jesus Christ. We rely on your mercy and glory in your grace. Holy Spirit, help us, change us, transform us that we would offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Galatians 4 & Isaiah 64:8-9*

Pastor: Hear the good news! God sent forth his Son, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

All: God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”
As his children, we are no longer slaves but heirs through God.

Pastor: Now, the Lord is the potter and we are the clay, the work of his hand.
He does not retain his anger or remember our iniquity.
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: “Before the Throne of God Above”

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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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COMMITMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Speak, O Lord* Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Heidelberg Catechism, Questions & Answers 29-31*

Leader: Why is the Son of God called “Jesus,” meaning “savior”?

People: **Because he saves us from our sins, and because salvation should not be sought and cannot be found in anyone else.**

(continued on the next page)

COMMITMENT

- Leader: Do those who look for their salvation in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only savior Jesus?
- People: **No. Although they boast of being his, by their actions they deny the only savior, Jesus. Either Jesus is not a perfect savior, or those who in true faith accept this savior have in him all they need for their salvation.**
- Leader: Why is he called “Christ,” meaning “anointed”?
- People: **Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.**

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 338 “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Luke 1:26-35*

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

SERMON: “The God We Believe In: Jesus Christ, God in Flesh”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 181 “We Come, O Christ, to You”

RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: God nourishes us in the sacraments, means of grace 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

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.

HYMN: 195 “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” st. 1, 2, 5

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

COVENANT KIDS CLUB RESUMES TONIGHT

Children 5 - 12 years old, join us in the Fellowship Hall for Covenant Kid's Club tonight 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.

YOUTH GROUP RETURNS!

Sunday evening youth group starts back up tonight. This fall, youth will meet from 5:30-7:30 pm. This week we will be introducing new assistants, starting a new study, playing games, singing and enjoying time together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

August 26 Johnny Tulipan
August 28 Caleb Drinkard
August 29 Michelle Moss
August 29 Lynn Tootle
August 30 Evie Mae Tulipan

FALL PIER GROUPS

Riverwood's small group Bible studies are known as "Pier Groups" as they provide a place to *protect, secure, and provide access to vessels* (thanks Webster's). The fall groups will begin on September 8. To sign up, go to riverwoodchurch.org and look for the Pier Groups tab.

SAV-A-LIFE

Save-a-Life Crisis Pregnancy Center will be hosting a golf tournament on September 16. If you are interested in participating by playing, sponsoring a hole, or sponsoring a golfer, please email the church office (secretary@riverwoodchurch.org).

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 next Sunday, Sept. 1.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

We are called as Christians to serve, even to be known as servants. Our Lord provided the example when he told his disciples that he came, not to be served, but to serve. There is an opportunity to serve God's people here, in their worship, in Communion preparation. It is an opportunity for a husband and wife, a parent and teenage child, an individual and a friend, to serve together as a team. You will be called on about once eight or nine weeks to spend an hour preparing and, after Sunday Worship, a half-hour cleaning up. If you wish to serve, please let Jimmy Hopper or Jeff Pate know and we will work you in the rotation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 Providence of God* by R. C. Sproul - led by elders

MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

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

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

August 25: Michael Henry / Lorrie Pate / Daniel Page & Olivia Patridge / Meredith Patridge
September 1: April Henry / Darla Cook / Lisa Kidder & Gabe Henson / David Barnes

AUGUST DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacon: Dusty Sheppard
Clean Up: Steve Patridge

FINANCIAL REPORT

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