

I marvel at the Lord, the Creator of the universe, who is born, not surrounded by gold and silver, but by mud and clay.

St. Jerome of Bethlehem (340-420)

We do not speak for Christ because we do not so love his name that we cannot bear to see it unacknowledged and unadorned. If only our eyes were opened to see his glory, and if only we felt wounded by the shame of his public humiliation among men, we should not be able to remain silent. Rather, we would echo the apostles' words: "we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

John Stott

We were created for more than our own spiritual development; reproduction, not mere development, is the goal of matured being – reproduction in other lives.

Lilias Trotter (1853-1928)

Artist and Missionary to Algeria

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

December 2, 2018 • 11:00 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

First Sunday of Advent

Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Clay Staggs
David Bedsole, 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

SCRIPTURE READING & LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: *Jeremiah 33:14-16*
Ben & Meg Sigmon

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Micah 5 and 1 Timothy 3:16*

Pastor: And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

All: **He shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, and he shall be great to the ends of the earth.**

Pastor: He shall be their peace.

All: **Great indeed is the mystery of godliness: Christ was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.**

Pastor: In the confidence of his first advent and with the hope of his second, come, let us worship!

HYMN OF PRAISE: 196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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: *Psalm 25:1-10*

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ²O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. ⁶Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! ⁸Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we bow before you in humility and in faith. You are the God of our salvation and we desire to know your ways. We confess that we have strayed from you and disobeyed you by trusting in our will more than your word. Remember your mercy. You are good and upright, but we are weak and sinful. Remember your steadfast love. Our hope is in your mercy and your love, so we wait on you. Thank you for coming to us in your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for our salvation. Thank you for making yourself known to us by your Holy Spirit who has given us faith to believe. Remember us according to your love for the sake of your goodness and glory. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 John 1:5-10*

Pastor: This is the message we have heard from him, God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

All: If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

All: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

HYMN: 239 "Who Is This, So Weak and Helpless"

COMMITMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

MISSIONS MOMENT

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 437 “O God, to Us Show Mercy”

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *1 John 1:3-4*

³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

SERMON: "Go Where There Are No Roads"

Dr. Paul Chinchen

SERMON OUTLINE:

1. Go where it is not easy
2. Go where you're not comfortable
3. Go when it is not convenient
4. Go where people are lost & hurting

COMMUNION

HYMN: 442 “Arise, O God”

RESPONSIVE READING: *Psalm 103:1-5; Revelation 5:12*

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

All: **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

Pastor: ...who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!**

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: 203 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

Covenant Kids Club is tonight at 4:30pm. Junior High Youth Group meets at 4:30pm, and Senior High Youth Group is at 5:40pm (see detailed youth announcement on the following page).

SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

December 2	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth
December 9	Covenant Kids Club / Youth Group Christmas Party
December 16	Angel Tree Party

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PLANS!

Attention RPC Youth...make plans to attend youth group tonight at regular meeting times as we spend the evening studying (Proverbs), playing, eating, singing, and DECORATING THE BARN FOR CHRISTMAS!! The youth **Christmas party** will be next Sunday, December 9, beginning with a movie and popcorn at 4:30. Then, around 6, we will have food, games, a dirty Santa gift swap (be sure to bring a gift worth no more than \$10), singing and all-round merry-making!

RIVERWOOD CHRISTMAS PARTY

Let's Celebrate! Join us for the Riverwood Church Christmas Party this Friday, December 7. This year the Riverwood Classical School Christmas Concert will begin our evening of festivities at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Then the celebration will continue in the fellowship hall with finger foods, fellowship, and dancing beginning around 7:30. Of course, you can choose to join for both events or either. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the food for the party! See the link in your email announcements this week to sign up.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP

All ladies are invited to a cookie swap on Tuesday, December 11th, 6:30-8:00pm at Heather Henson's home. Please keep an eye on your email for an invitation that includes details and exchange guidelines.

HELP NEEDED FOR THE ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

The Angel Tree is for children who have a parent that has been incarcerated. This year, we have 31 children and 17 families. There are many ways that you can help with this ministry:

- Praying for the incarcerated parent, the children and their caretakers.
- Providing gifts for a child. We are asking for one toy and an article of clothing. Information for each child is available in the foyer of the sanctuary.
- Providing non-perishable food items to be given to each family. We will collect these food items during the month of December.
- Helping with the Angel Tree Christmas Party on Dec. 16th. Please see Joann Williams for more information regarding the party.

JOIN THE NURSERY SERVICE TEAM

Once again, our team for the littlest members of our community is getting small. If there are enough workers, you will only need to be in the nursery/toddler area one Sunday every three or four months. If you are interested in serving, please see April Henry. As per church policy, to serve in this capacity you need to have been attending Riverwood Church for at least six months and agree to a background check (high school age volunteers are exempt from the background check).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

At Riverwood Presbyterian Church we have Sunday School at 9:45am 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: Greg & Sarah Vander Wal
Grades 4-6: Tom & Elena Arnold

MEETING IN THE BARN:

Youth Class led by Jeff Pate

MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Adult Class - *Beginnings: Studies in Genesis* led by Jimmy Hopper

MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Adult Class - *Radical* by David Platt - discussion led by Gene Martin

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

December 2: April Henry / Lynn Tootle / Ginny Nippert & James Urban / Quay Finch
December 9: Sarah Vander Wal / Debbie Jones / Bruce DeHaan & Sumlin Pate / Kay Kirkley

DECEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacons: Bruce DeHaan & Tom Arnold
Clean Up: Steve Patridge & Dusty Sheppard

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 2018:

Operating Income:	\$375,823.06
Operating Expense*:	\$403,191.92
Net Income:	(\$27,368.86)
Designated gifts:	\$58,334.12
Building loan balance:	\$885,796.42

*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment