

# REFLECTIONS

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When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

John 21:15-17

I am like the sick sheep that strays from the rest of the flock. Unless the Good Shepherd takes me on His shoulders and carries me back to His fold, my steps will falter, and in the very effort of rising, my feet will give way.

Jerome

4th century theologian and Bible translator

Do not see the Father as one who is angry, but as one who is most kind and gentle. Let us see the Father as one who from eternity has always had kind thoughts towards us. The Father loses the company of his people because they are so ignorant of his love to them. His saints keep thinking only of his terrible majesty, severity and greatness, and so their hearts are not drawn to him in love. We must learn to think of his everlasting gentleness and compassion. Let our hearts and thoughts be filled with his love to us, even though many discouragements may lie in our way.

John Owen

17th century Puritan theologian

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

December 31, 2017 • 11:00 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### First Sunday after Christmas Day

Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Steven Crawford  
Nancy Allen, piano

#### WELCOME & PRELUDE

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

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

## PRAISE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 100*

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
Serve the LORD with gladness! Enter into his presence with singing!  
Know that the LORD, he is God!

**All: It is he who has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Pastor: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**All: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: 110 “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah”**

#### 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.*

# CONFESSIO

## SCRIPTURE READING: *Ezekiel 34:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? <sup>3</sup>You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. <sup>4</sup>The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. <sup>5</sup>So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; <sup>6</sup>they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them. <sup>7</sup>Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: <sup>8</sup>As I live, declares the Lord God, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, <sup>9</sup>therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Most holy and gracious Father, in your presence we confess our sins. In your great might, you have loved us sacrificially and faithfully. But in our weakness, our love for you costs us little and is inconsistent at best. Please forgive us for using positions of power and influence to serve ourselves instead of our neighbors. Have mercy on us for taking advantage of the weak for our glory instead of seeking their good for your glory. Holy Spirit, continue to show us our sin, remind of our Savior's grace, and teach us to love as he loved. We ask this in name of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on John 10:11, 27, 28*

Pastor: Behold, I bring you good news! God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Good Shepherd. He laid his life down for his sheep.

All: Christ's sheep hear his voice, he knows us and we follow him by faith.

Pastor: Your Shepherd promised that he gives eternal life to all who believe in him. You will never perish and no one will snatch you out of his hand. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: “I Was a Wandering Sheep” (to the tune of *This Is My Father's World*; lyrics on page 6)

# COMMITMENT

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions & Answers 19-21*

Leader: What misery did the fall bring upon mankind?

People: **The fall brought upon mankind loss of communion with God, and his wrath and curse, so that we are justly liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to punishment in hell for ever.**

Leader: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?

People: **God, solely out of his love and mercy, from all eternity elected some to everlasting life, and entered into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer.**

Leader: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

People: **The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person for ever.**

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 337 "O Spirit of the Living God"

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Luke 15:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup>Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**SERMON:**

“Two Lost Parables”

Rev. Jeff Pate

## COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** 457 “Come, Thou Fount of Every 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.*

**RESPONSIVE READING:** *Psalms 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!**

**HYMN:** 448 “We Have Heard the Joyful Sound”

**BENEDICTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

# I WAS A WANDERING SHEEP

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I was a wandering sheep, I did not love the fold;  
I did not love my Shepherd's voice, I would not be controlled.

I was a wayward child, I did not love my home;  
I did not love my Father's voice, I loved afar to roam.

The Shepherd sought His sheep, the Father sought His child;  
They followed me o'er vale and hill, o'er deserts waste and wild:  
They found me near to death, famished, faint and all alone;  
They bound me with the bands of love, they saved the wandering one.

Jesus my Shepherd is; 'twas He that loved my soul,  
'Twas He that washed me in His blood, 'twas He that made me whole;  
'Twas He that sought the lost, that found the wandering sheep,  
'Twas He that brought me to the fold, 'tis He that still doth keep.

I was a wandering sheep, I would not be controlled;  
But now I love my Shepherd's voice, I love, I love the fold.  
I was a wayward child, I once preferred to roam;  
But now I love my Father's voice, I love, I love His home.

## TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

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Due to the holidays, there will be no evening services or activities tonight. Please enjoy this time with your family and friends.

### SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

Dec. 31 No Evening Services  
Jan. 7 Covenant Kids Club / Evening Worship  
Jan. 14 Covenant Kids Club / Choir Rehearsal  
Jan. 21 Covenant Kids Club / Evening Worship

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

December 31 Marshall Brown  
January 3 Ken Gilbert  
January 6 Vetta Lavender

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Riverwood office hours will vary during the holidays. If you need immediate assistance during this time, please feel free to contact your elder or deacon.

## 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are planning to give before the end of the calendar year, please ensure that your gifts make it into the offering plate by *today*. Any contributions received after today will be posted to 2018.

## DEACON'S FUND OFFERING

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our Deacons have an offering to replenish funds in an account used exclusively for emergency and short-term mercy ministry needs. This fund has enabled our Diaconate to extend the kingdom of God to many within our community. This morning, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

*"Faithful study of God's Word is a means for filling our spiritual storerooms with truth, so that in our hour of need we can bring forth both the old and the new as a source of rich provision."*

-Jen Wilkin

Ladies, let's fill our "spiritual storerooms" as we study the New Testament book of Hebrews using Jen Wilkin's workbook *Better: A Study of Hebrews*. There will be two opportunities to join a study: Wednesday mornings at 10am in the administrative building and an evening study, day/time/location to be determined. The studies will begin the week of January 8, 2018. Workbooks are ready for pick up in the church office. Donations of \$10 are appreciated to cover the cost of the 3-ring binders and printing.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, January 10, 3:30pm: Catechism classes resume  
Wednesday, January 10, 6:30pm: Session & Diaconate Meeting  
Sunday, January 21: Congregational Meeting

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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At Riverwood Presbyterian Church we have Sunday School at 9:45am for all age groups.  
\*NO Sunday School classes on December 24 or 31\*

## MEETING DOWNSTAIRS:

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

## MEETING UPSTAIRS:

Grades 1-3: Monica Urban  
Grades 4-6: Ginny Nippert

## MEETING IN THE BARN:

Youth Class – led by Jeff Pate

## MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Adult Class

# MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

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## NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

December 31: Kathy Gilbert / Gracen Miller & Eli Bell / Wilson Pate  
January 7: Vielyana Kim / April Henry / Olivia Patridge & Lisa Kidder / Michael Henry

## DECEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacons: Dusty Sheppard & Chris Locklear  
Clean Up: Bruce DeHaan & Ed Kidder

# FINANCIAL REPORT

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*(Through December 18)*

Operating Income:	\$399,658.20
Operating Expense*:	\$401,803.34
Net Income:	(\$2,145.14)
Designated gifts:	\$59,026.68
Building loan balance:	\$993,834.25

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*