

Measure thy life by loss and not by gain,
Not by the wine drunk, but by the wine poured forth.
For love's strength standeth in love's sacrifice,
And he who suffers most has most to give
Lilias Trotter

We instinctively know that love leads to commitment, so we look away when we see a beggar. We might have to pay if we look too closely and care too deeply. Loving means losing control of our schedule, our money, and our time. When we love we cease to be the master and become the servant.

Paul Miller

They say of some temporal suffering, 'No future bliss can make up for it,' not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory.

C. S. Lewis
from *The Great Divorce*

God delights to increase the faith of His children. Our faith, which is feeble at first, is developed and strengthened more and more by use. We ought, instead of wanting no trials before victory, no exercise for patience, to be willing to take them from God's hand as a means. I say—and say it deliberately— trials, obstacles, difficulties, and sometimes defeats, are the very food of faith.

George Müller

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 14, 2021 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Transfiguration Sunday

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin
Joann Williams, piano

10:30am

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

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 108*

Leader: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.

**All: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

Leader: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

**All: That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer me!**

Leader: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 361 "O Praise Ye the Lord"

O praise ye the Lord and sing a new song,
amid all his saints his praises prolong;
the praise of their Maker his people shall sing,
and children of Zion rejoice in their King.

With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim,
with gladness and mirth, sing praise to his name;
for God in his people his pleasure doth seek,
with robes of salvation he clotheth the meek.

In glory exult, ye saints of the Lord;
with songs in the night high praises accord;
go forth in his service, be strong in his might
to conquer all evil and stand for the right.

For this is his word: his saints shall not fail,
but over the earth their pow'r shall prevail;
all kingdoms and nations shall yield to their sway.
To God give the glory and praise him for aye.

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: *Deuteronomy 5:21*

²¹“And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, your Word is a light that reveals the sin in our hearts and our lives. Please forgive us for coveting what isn't ours and failing to be grateful for what is. Forgive us for selfishly craving after our neighbors' belongings or our neighbors' relationships. Have mercy on us for thinking that lasting joy and peace can be found in items or people instead of in you. Help us to know the assurance and contentment that only you can provide. Thank you for giving us everything we need for salvation and hope in this life and in the life that is to come through faith in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Ephesians 2*

Pastor: Hear the good news as declared by Paul, the apostles of Jesus Christ. You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

All: **But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—**

Pastor: by grace you have been saved—

All: **and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

Pastor: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. The peace of Christ be with you all.

HYMN: 691 "It Is Well with My Soul"

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Chorus:

It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

(Chorus)

My sin - O the bliss of this glorious thought! -
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

(Chorus)

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so" - it is well with my soul.

(Chorus)

OFFERING

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

COMMITMENT

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COVENANT BAPTISM (8:30 *service*)

Evelyn Ruth Gill
daughter of Chris & Katie Gill

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 437 “O God, to Us Show Mercy”

O God, to us show mercy
and bless us in your grace;
cause now to shine upon us
the brightness of your face;
that so your way most holy
on earth may soon be known,
and unto ev'ry people
your saving grace be shown.

O God, let all men praise you,
let all the nations sing;
in ev'ry land let praises
and songs of gladness ring;
for you shall judge the people
in truth and righteousness,
and through the earth the nations
shall your just rule confess.

O God, let people praise you,
let all the nations sing,
for earth in rich abundance
to us her fruit shall bring.
The Lord our God shall bless us,
our God shall blessing send,
and all the earth shall fear him
to its remotest end.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *2 Thessalonians 1:1-4*

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

⁴Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,
All: **but the word of our God will stand forever.**

SERMON: “Celebrating Church Growth” Rev. Jeff Pate

I. The local church grows in God.

II. A growing church has roots drawing on divine grace and peace.

III. Growth is spiritual and observable.

IV. The church often grows in the hothouse of affliction and persecution.

COMMUNION

HYMN: 347 “The Church’s One Foundation” st. 1-3

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word:
from heav’n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev’ry nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes on holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev’ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

All: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

All: The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.

Pastor: Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God 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

HYMN: 347 “The Church’s One Foundation” st. 4-6

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

‘Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 15 Abigail Jones

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group meet tonight from 5:30-7:00pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Each year on Ash Wednesday, Riverwood comes before the Lord in prayer, repentance, and the symbolic cross marked in ashes. There will be two services this Wednesday, February 17 – 7:00am for those who need to get to work or school, and an 8:00am service to include RCS students and staff. You are welcome to join us at either service to begin the Easter season with worship, as we seek to acknowledge and turn from our sin. The service will be in the sanctuary and will last approximately 30 minutes.

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Wednesday, February 17, 10:00am: Women's Bible Study
- Wednesday, February 17, 3:30pm: Catechism

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 2021

Operating Income:	\$31,061.76
Operating Expense*:	\$30,259.27
Net Income:	\$802.49
Designated gifts:	\$1,721.00
Building loan balance:	\$703,641.70

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*