

## REFLECTIONS

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The author of Hebrews readily admits that discipline is painful (Heb. 10:11). But He also assures us it is profitable. It produces “a harvest of righteousness and peace.” The purpose of God’s discipline is not to punish us but to transform us. He has already meted out punishment for our sins on Jesus at Calvary: “The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him” (Isaiah 53:5). But we must be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ. That is the purpose of discipline.

Jerry Bridges  
from *Trusting God*

God’s wounds cure, sin’s kisses kill.

William Gurnall

Though You slay me,  
Yet I will praise You.  
Though You take from me,  
I will bless Your name.  
Though You ruin me,  
Still I will worship,  
Sing a song to the one who's all I need.

Shane & Shane  
from the song *Though You Slay Me*

Salvation is purely of unmerited grace; destruction is brought upon us through the labors of our hands. Salvation is a gift of God; destruction is the reward of our own efforts.

Edward J. Young  
from *The Book of Isaiah, a Commentary*

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 20, 2022 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**  
Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin  
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.*

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## PRAISE

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 89*

Pastor: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**All: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

Pastor: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord,  
in the light of your face, who exult in your name all the day and in  
your righteousness are exalted.

**All: For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.  
Blessed be the Lord forever!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 164 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
‘tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of reigning sin, he sets the pris’ner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list’ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosen’d tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

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

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## SCRIPTURE READING: *1 Peter 3:1-12*

<sup>1</sup> Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct. <sup>3</sup> Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— <sup>4</sup> but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. <sup>5</sup> For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. <sup>7</sup> Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; <sup>11</sup> let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Our Father in heaven, your Word reveals to us your character and your desires. You are holy and righteous and you desire for your people to be holy and righteous. We confess that in ourselves, we are not. So we come to you through faith in Jesus Christ, asking for your mercy. Please forgive us for caring more about the appearance of our bodies than the content of our character. Forgive us for not valuing what you find precious, like a gentle and quiet spirit. Have mercy on us for disregarding people instead of showing honor, and belittling people you sent your Son to redeem. Fill us with your Spirit that we would love what you love and bless those you bless. Enable us to guard our mouths, love our enemies, and be at peace with fellow believers. Help us to turn away from evil, do good, seek peace, and pursue it. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

# GOSPEL ASSURANCE

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**WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** *from Jeremiah 33:8; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 10:17,18*

**Pastor:** Hear the good news of God's lovingkindness for his people. God declares through Jeremiah, "I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me."

**All:** **In our Lord Jesus Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.**

**Pastor:** God promises that he will remember your sins and lawless deeds no more. Where there is forgiveness for these, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. By God's grace and through faith in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

**Pastor:** The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**HYMN: 252** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ my God:  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Colossians 1:15-20*

Leader: What do you believe concerning Jesus Christ?

All: I believe that: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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.

# PRAYER & SUPPLICATION

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## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 402 “Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide”

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour;  
what but thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

## READING OF THE WORD

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SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 3:1-4:6*

<sup>1</sup> For behold, the Lord God of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah support and supply, all support of bread, and all support of water; <sup>2</sup> the mighty man and the soldier, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder, <sup>3</sup> the captain of fifty and the man of rank, the counselor and the skillful magician and the expert in charms. <sup>4</sup> And I will make boys their princes, and infants shall rule over them. <sup>5</sup> And the people will oppress one another, every one his fellow and every one his neighbor; the youth will be insolent to the elder, and the despised to the honorable. <sup>6</sup> For a man will take hold of his brother in the house of his father, saying: “You have a cloak; you shall be our leader, and this heap of ruins shall be under your rule”; <sup>7</sup> in that day he will speak out, saying: “I will not be a healer; in my house there is neither bread nor cloak; you shall not make me leader of the people.” <sup>8</sup> For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against the Lord, defying his glorious presence. <sup>9</sup> For the look on their faces bears witness against them; they proclaim their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves.

## READING OF THE WORD

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<sup>10</sup> Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. <sup>11</sup> Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him. <sup>12</sup> My people—infants are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, your guides mislead you and they have swallowed up the course of your paths. <sup>13</sup> The Lord has taken his place to contend; he stands to judge peoples. <sup>14</sup> The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders and princes of his people: “It is you who have devoured the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses. <sup>15</sup> What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor?” declares the Lord God of hosts.

<sup>16</sup> The Lord said: Because the daughters of Zion are haughty and walk with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet, <sup>17</sup> therefore the Lord will strike with a scab the heads of the daughters of Zion, and the Lord will lay bare their secret parts. <sup>18</sup> In that day the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets, the headbands, and the crescents; <sup>19</sup> the pendants, the bracelets, and the scarves; <sup>20</sup> the headdresses, the armllets, the sashes, the perfume boxes, and the amulets; <sup>21</sup> the signet rings and nose rings; <sup>22</sup> the festal robes, the mantles, the cloaks, and the handbags; <sup>23</sup> the mirrors, the linen garments, the turbans, and the veils. <sup>24</sup> Instead of perfume there will be rotteness; and instead of a belt, a rope; and instead of well-set hair, baldness; and instead of a rich robe, a skirt of sackcloth; and branding instead of beauty. <sup>25</sup> Your men shall fall by the sword and your mighty men in battle. <sup>26</sup> And her gates shall lament and mourn; empty, she shall sit on the ground. <sup>4:1</sup> And seven women shall take hold of one man in that day, saying, “We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach.”

<sup>2</sup> In that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. <sup>3</sup> And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, <sup>4</sup> when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. <sup>5</sup> Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. <sup>6</sup> There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

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

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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SERMON:

“Removing Blinders and Revealing Glory”

Rev. Jeff Pate

I. God graciously removes obstacles that keep us from seeing our dependency on him.

A. God removes obstacles.

B. God exposes our true condition.

C. God judges through what he provides.

II. When our vision is cleared, we can see the One who is beautiful and glorious.

A. The Branch of the Lord and the fruit of the land

B. The people who remain

# COMMUNION

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**HYMN: 402** “Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide”

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless:  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:  
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** *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

**HYMN: 699** “Like a River Glorious”

Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace, over all victorious in its bright increase;  
perfect, yet it floweth fuller ev'ry day, perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.

*Chorus:*

Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest,  
finding, as he promised, perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow of his blessed hand, never foe can follow, never traitor stand;  
not a surge of worry, not a shade of care, not a blast of hurry, touch the spirit there.

Ev'ry joy or trial falleth from above, traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.  
We may trust him fully all for us to do; they who trust him wholly find him wholly true.

# BENEDICTION

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## BENEDICTION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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)*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RIVERWOOD PRAYER FOR 2022

Almighty God, fill us with the knowledge of your will that we may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Holy Spirit, strengthen us with all power, according to your glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy that we may constantly give thanks to our Heavenly Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.  
We ask this in Jesus’s name. Amen.

### ATTN: RIDGE HAVEN CAMPERS (rising 3rd through 9th grades)

February 15th is the last day to register for camp and receive the early bird discount. The dates that Riverwood will transport campers to Ridge Haven will be May 30th - June 4th. Please sign up on Ridge Haven’s website ([ridgehaven.org](http://ridgehaven.org)). There is no group code. Please email Joann and let her know that you will be attending ([jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org](mailto:jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org)).

### COVENANT KIDS CLUB

Covenant Kids Club will meet at the church tonight from 5:30 - 7pm for an evening filled with music, study in God’s Word, food, and fun.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the youth and college get-togethers a great success last week! You helped make those gatherings possible. Crockpots and dishes from the Super Bowl parties are in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Genesis 45:3-11,15; Psalm 37:1-11,39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50; Luke 6:17-26

### SNACKS & DRINKS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

RPC Children's Ministry is in need of individual snack bags (no peanuts) and drinks (e.g. Capri Sun/Kool Aid). You can leave items in the foyer of the sanctuary or in the church office.

Thank you for your assistance.

### YOUTH GROUP

The Riverwood youth meet each Sunday evening here at the church from 5:30-7 pm.

Zac is currently leading a study through the book of Galatians.

Eli and Gracen always have a game ready to get things started. Come and join us!

### HOMELESS CONNECT WITH LOVE INC

You can make a difference in our local homeless community on April 30. For more information go to [www.loveinctuscaloosa.com/homeless-connect/550-2/](http://www.loveinctuscaloosa.com/homeless-connect/550-2/)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 2	Ash Wednesday Services (7 am & 8:15 am)
March 27	Churchwide Fellowship meal (evening)
April 1	Trivium Trot 5K (RCS fundraiser)
April 2	Churchwide Workday (8 am)
April 9	Riverwood Kids Event (9 am)

### *Through January 2022*

Operating Income:	\$29,236.46
Operating Expense*:	\$31,052.20
Net Income:	(\$1,815.74)
Designated gifts:	\$12,789.39
Building loan balance:	\$722,879.12

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment and has been corrected from last week.*