

As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death – we give our lives over unto death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God fearing and happy life but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

Margaret Mead

I must confess that I have enjoyed being on this mountaintop and I am tempted to want to stay here and retreat to a more quiet and serene life. But something within reminds me that the valley calls me in spite of all its agonies, dangers, and frustrating moments. I must return to the valley. Something tells me that the ultimate test of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and moments of convenience, but where he stands in moments of challenge and moments of controversy. So I must return to the valley.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 23, 2020 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Transfiguration Sunday

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers  
Joann Williams, 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

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### CALL TO WORSHIP: based on Psalm 86

Pastor: Come and worship our triune God, for there is no other god like him, nor are there any works like his.

All: All the nations he has made shall come and worship before the Lord, our God.

Pastor: For he is great and does wondrous things; he alone is God.

All: I give thanks to the Lord, my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify his name forever. Great is his steadfast love toward us.

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN OF PRAISE: 115 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

### 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 Thessalonians 5:14-24*

<sup>14</sup>And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. <sup>15</sup>See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on 1 Peter 2*

Pastor: The good news is that God is rich in mercy and he sent his own Son because of his great love for you.

All: **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

Pastor: By his wounds you have been healed and your sins have been forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 500 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions and Answers 39, 40, 82, 84, & 85*

Leader: What is the duty which God requires of man?

**All: The duty which God requires of man is obedience to his revealed will.**

Leader: What rule did God at first reveal to man for his obedience?

**All: The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.**

Leader: Is any man able to keep the commandments of God perfectly?

**All: No mere human person, since the fall, is able to keep the commandments of God perfectly in this life, but breaks them daily in thought, word, and deed.**

Leader: What does every sin deserve?

**All: Although some sins will be more severely punished than others, yet every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and the life that is to come.**

Leader: What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

**All: To escape the wrath and curse due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and repentance leading to life together with the diligent use of all the outward means by which Christ gives to us the benefits of redemption.**

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 335 "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Nehemiah 2:9-20*

<sup>9</sup>Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. <sup>10</sup>But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel. <sup>11</sup>So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. <sup>12</sup>Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. <sup>13</sup>I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. <sup>14</sup>Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. <sup>15</sup>Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. <sup>16</sup>And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work. <sup>17</sup>Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." <sup>18</sup>And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. <sup>19</sup>But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" <sup>20</sup>Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."

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

SERMON:                                "First Person Commitment"                                Rev. Jeff Pate

# O CHURCH, ARISE

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1. O church, arise, and put your armor on; hear the call of Christ our captain.  
For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies.  
An army bold, whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

2. Our call to war - to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor;  
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valor.  
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure;  
And Christ will have the prize for which He died: an inheritance of nations.

3. Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken;  
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, for the Conqueror has risen!  
And as the stone is rolled away, and Christ emerges from the grave,  
This victory march continues till the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

4. So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride; give grace for every hurdle.  
That we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.  
As saints of old, still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace,  
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day when with Christ we stand in Glory.

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend  
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## COMMUNION

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### 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 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

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HYMN: 442 “Arise, O God”

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 28 David Bedsole

### COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club is tonight from 5:30-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Youth Group will NOT meet tonight.

### 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 26 - 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.

### COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL

Next Sunday, March 1, Sunday schools will be combined in the sanctuary to hear from our brother and supported missionary, Nathan Hilton. Nathan has recently planted a new work in Sunderland, in the northeast of England. He will be reporting to us on the progress of Sunderland Presbyterian Church. Nathan will also open the Word of God to us during worship on that day. Please join everyone at 9:30 AM to welcome Nathan and hear his report.

### WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Attention ladies! Two opportunities to participate in small group Bible study will be starting soon. On Wednesday, March 4, at 10:00am you are welcome to join a study through the book *Union with Christ* by Rankin Wilbourne. Books will be available soon in the church office. If you are interested in an evening study, contact Katharine Bedsole.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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*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 - *Galatians* - led by elders

## **MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:**

Adult Class - *Every Good Endeavor* by Tim Keller - led by Gene Martin

# MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

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## **NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:**

February 23: Bob DeWitt / Janalie Graham / April Henry & Olivia Patridge / Phoebe Bell  
March 1: Kristina Patridge / Darla Cook / Lisa Kidder & Gabe Henson / David Barnes

## **FEBRUARY DEACON SCHEDULE:**

Head Deacon: Wayne Bell  
Clean Up: Dusty Sheppard

# FINANCIAL REPORT

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*Through January 2020:*

Operating Income:	\$25,321.37
Operating Expense*:	\$30,864.56
Net Income:	(\$5,543.19)
Designated gifts:	\$630.00
Building loan balance:	\$781,059.32

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*