

# REFLECTIONS

---

[God] adopts us to a state of excellence. It were much for God to take a cloud of dust and make it a star; it is more for Him to take a piece of clay and sin and adopt it for His heir.

Thomas Watson

Nobody is born into this world a child of the family of God. We are born as children of wrath. The only way we enter into the family of God is by adoption, and that adoption occurs when we are united to God's only begotten Son by faith. When by faith we are united with Christ, we are then adopted into that family of whom Christ is the firstborn.

R. C. Sproul

It is not imitation that makes sons. It is sonship that makes imitators.

Martin Luther

Accept suffering with humility. Both suffering and humility will serve you. This apparent fatalism is actually confidence that life is shaped with divine intention, which will express itself in ways that can be baffling or alarming but that always bring an insight, pose a question, or make a demand, to the benefit of those who are alert to the will of God.

Marilynne Robinson

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

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 25, 2018 • 11:00 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### The Second Sunday in Lent

Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin  
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: *from Psalm 104; 2 Corinthians 4:6*

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great!

All: **You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.**

Pastor: For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

All: **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul! Come, let us worship!

### HYMN OF PRAISE: 398 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

### 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 32:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. <sup>3</sup>For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. <sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. <sup>6</sup>Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. <sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Almighty God, you are infinite in your being, eternal in your holiness, and unchanging in justice and truth. We bow before your presence, acknowledging our sin. You alone have the authority and power to forgive us for our sins, so we cry out to you. Have mercy on us. Forgive us for our rebellious attitudes as we follow our sinful flesh instead of your life-giving Spirit. Forgive us for our lack of faith in your power as we live in anxiety and fear. Forgive us for cold hearts that are slow to forgive and even slower to love others as you loved us. Holy Spirit, help us to live the new life that is ours in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *1 John 4:9-12*

Pastor: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

All: No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 535 "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!"

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions and Answers 32, 34, & 36*

Leader: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

People: **They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.**

Leader: What is adoption?

People: **Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.**

Leader: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

People: **The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.**

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 457 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

---

SCRIPTURE: *Romans 8:12-17*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

SERMON:

“The Economics of Grace”

Rev. Jeff Pate

---

## COMMUNION

---

HYMN: 525 “A Child of the King” st. 1,3

RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: Our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return in glory.

All: **In this supper God declares to us that our sins have been completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the cross once for all.**

Pastor: He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who with his very body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father, where he wants us to worship him.

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: 88 “With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring”

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

# TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

---

Covenant Kids Club meets tonight at 4:30pm. Youth groups also meet tonight (see detailed announcements below). Choir rehearsal is in the sanctuary tonight at 5:00pm.

## SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

Feb. 25 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth / Choir Rehearsal  
March 4 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth / Evening Worship  
March 11 Choir Rehearsal

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

## JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Calling all Junior Highs (grades 6-8) - come and join us for some GAGA BALL today from 4:30 to 6:10 in the pit outside the BARN! Then stick around for our continuing BIBLE 101 study, some awesome songs, and some great food. Hope to see YOU there!

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Come and join the Senior Highs (grades 9-12) tonight from 5:40 to 7:45 so you can help us figure out which game we are going to play OUTSIDE! That's right - we are committed to getting out of the Barn and under the stars, but we're just not exactly sure which game to choose. So, we are really hoping to have YOU there to help us figure it out!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

## FAVORITE THINGS PARTY

All Riverwood Women: Please join us in the fellowship hall for a *Favorite Things Party* this Thursday, March 1, at 7:00pm. Come for a fun time of fellowship and sharing your favorite things! Think of something that you love and cannot do without. It should be something that you think others should know about and love. Please bring three of your favorite things (\$10 or less & wrapped) and all three items should be the same thing. After a random drawing, everyone will leave the party with three different things that are someone else's favorite things.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

## OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 10:00am: Women's Bible Study  
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 3:30pm: Catechism  
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6:30pm: Women's Bible Study

## RIDGE HAVEN SCHOLARSHIP LUNCH

The annual Ridge Haven scholarship lunch will be next Sunday, March 4, immediately following the worship service. Ridge Haven Camp is a wonderful week-long summer opportunity for our children. From the moment they arrive at camp on Monday to the time we pick them up on Saturday, the campers learn more about the gospel, build relationships with counselors and cabin mates, sing, and just have fun! We have 11 children signed up for camp. The families of these children and other members of the congregation will be providing the meal to raise money to cover the costs of camp. The meal will consist of a baked potato bar, macaroni and cheese, salads, and desserts. The cost is whatever you wish or are able to donate. Please mark your calendar and join us for a great time of fellowship, a wonderful meal, and to meet the children who are going to camp this year. If you have questions or would like to help with the lunch, please contact Joann Williams.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LOCATION CHANGE

Due to the Ridge Haven luncheon next Sunday, March 4, the adult Sunday School class that normally meets in the fellowship hall will meet in the sanctuary.

## COMMUNICANT CLASS

Plans are underway for a communicant class to begin soon. If you are interested (adult or child), please contact Jeff Pate.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, March 21, 6:30pm: Session & Diaconate Meeting  
Saturday, March 24: Church and School Workday  
Thursday, March 29, 6:00pm: Maundy Thursday service  
Saturday, March 31: Children's Easter Party  
Friday, April 6: Children's Jammin Night

# 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: 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

**MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:**

Adult Class – *Disability and the Gospel* led by Gene Martin

## MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

---

**NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:**

February 25: Laura Silvashy / Monica Urban / Meg Sigmon & Quay Finch / Chanley Henson  
March 4: Heather Henson / Laura Silvashy / Greg Vander Wal & Olivia Patridge / Meredith Patridge

**FEBRUARY DEACON SCHEDULE:**

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

## FINANCIAL REPORT

---

*January 2018:*

Operating Income:	\$27,027.46
Operating Expense*:	\$31,737.48
Net Income:	(\$4,710.02)
Designated gifts:	\$1,100.00
Building loan balance:	\$941,234.90

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*