

Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. Something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

God's compassionate, tear-wiping hand will validate our wounds, and we will celebrate our wholeness on the day Jesus returns to make all things new.

Scotty Smith

We live our lives in light of our projected futures. The future to which we aspire shapes our attitudes and decisions in the present. It's important to know where we are headed, for it tells us how to live in the present. That is as true of what we see to be our ultimate future — the issue of human destiny — as it is of our proximate futures. To live responsibly in the present requires that we be acquainted with our future end.

Michael Williams

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 28, 2021 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Second Sunday in Lent

8:30am

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

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
Ginny Coleman, 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: *based on Psalm 50*

Pastor: The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

All: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Pastor: Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.

**All: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth,
that he may judge his people:**

Pastor: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with my by sacrifice!"

All: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 316 “The Mighty God, the Lord”

The mighty God, the Lord, hath spoken unto all;
from rising to the setting sun, he unto earth doth call.
From Zion, his own hill, where perfect beauty dwells,
Jehovah hath his glory shown, in brightness that excels.

Our God shall surely come, and silence shall not keep;
before him fire shall waste, and storms tempestuous round him sweep.
He to the heav'ns above shall then send forth his call,
and likewise to the earth, that he may judge his people all.

“Together let my saints unto me gathered be,
those that by sacrifice have made a covenant with me.”
Then shall the heav'ns declare his righteousness abroad;
because the Lord himself is judge, yea, none is judge, but God.

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: *Joel 2:1-2a, 10-13*

¹Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

¹⁰The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. ¹¹The Lord utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the Lord is great and very awesome; who can endure it? ¹²“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

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: 253 "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains:
lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away:
washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away;
and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream your flowing wounds supply,
redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die:
and shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song I'll sing your pow'r to save,
when this poor lisp'ing, stamm'ring tongue lies silent in the grave:
lies silent in the grave, lies silent in the grave;
when this poor lisp'ing, stamm'ring tongue lies silent in the grave.

Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood shall never lose its pow'r,
till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more:
be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more;
till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more.

COMMITMENT

OFFERING

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Nicene Creed*

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 331 “Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit”

Come, O come, thou quick’ning Spirit, God from all eternity!
May the power never fail us; dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light banish all the gloom of night.

Grant our hearts in fullest measure wisdom, counsel, purity,
that we ever may be seeking only that which pleaseth thee.
Let thy knowledge spread and grow, working error’s overthrow.

Show us, Lord, the path of blessing; when we trespass on our way,
cast, O Lord, our sins behind thee and be with us day by day.
Should we stray, O Lord, recall; work repentance when we fall.

Holy Spirit, strong and mighty, thou who makest all things new,
make thy work within us perfect and the evil foe subdue.
Grant us weapons for the strife and with vict’ry crown our life.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *2 Thessalonians 1:5-12*

⁵This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—⁶since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

SERMON: “Evidence of the Coming Day” Rev. Jeff Pate

I. Our steadfast faith and love in affliction is proof of the righteous judgment of God.

II. Future judgment is linked to the glory of Jesus Christ.

III. Lived in anticipation of that day, a worthy life glorifies Jesus now.

HYMN: 32 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” st. 1, 3

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Chorus)

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: 320 “Rejoice, All Ye Believers”

Rejoice, all ye believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near:
the Bridegroom is arising, and soon he draweth nigh;
up, pray, and watch, and wrestle: at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil;
and wait for your salvation, the end of earthly toil.
The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;
go meet him as he cometh, with alleluias clear.

Ye saints, who here in patience your cross and suff'ring bore,
shall live and reign forever, when sorrow is no more:
around the throne of glory the Lamb ye shall behold,
in triumph cast before him your diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that brings us unto 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 BIRTHDAYS

February 28 David Bedsole
March 4 Peggy Drinkard
March 6 David Barnes
March 6 Claire Belson

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

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

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

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 3, 10:00am: Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, March 3, 3:30pm: Catechism
Wednesday, March 3, 6:30pm: Session & Diaconate Meeting

SPRING BREAK

During spring break (March 14-20), there will be no Covenant Kids Club, Youth Group, or children's catechism classes. Church office hours will be intermittent. If needed, please feel free to contact church officers on their cell phones (numbers listed in the church directory).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Riverwood is discussing the return of Sunday School classes for all ages in the next few weeks. Please be on the lookout for more details coming soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, April 1, 6:00pm: Maundy Thursday service
Saturday, April 3, 1:00pm: Children's Easter Celebration
Monday-Thursday, July 5-8: Vacation Bible School

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*