

See where before the throne He stands,  
And pours the all-prevailing prayer,  
Points to His side, and lifts His hands,  
And shows that I am graven there.

He ever lives for me to pray:  
He prays that I with Him may reign:  
Amen to what my Lord doth say!  
Jesus, Thou canst not pray in vain.  
Charles Wesley

I learned the first rule of repentance: that repentance requires greater intimacy with God than with our sin. How much greater? About the size of a mustard seed. Repentance requires that we draw near to Jesus, no matter what. And sometimes we all have to crawl there on our hands and knees. Repentance is an intimate affair. And for many of us, intimacy with anything is a terrifying prospect.

Rosaria Butterfield  
from *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*

Jesus does not say, “Come to me, all you who have learned how to concentrate in prayer, whose minds no longer wander, and I will give you rest.” No, Jesus opens his arms to his needy children and says, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). The criteria for coming to Jesus is weariness. Come overwhelmed with life. Come with your wandering mind. Come messy.

Paul Miller  
from *A Praying Life*

If we understand the gospel, then indifference and apathy are irrational responses.  
R. C. Sproul

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 2, 2020 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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:** *from Psalm 104; 2 Corinthians 4:6*

Leader: 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: 164 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

#### 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: *1 Timothy 2:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. <sup>8</sup>I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; <sup>9</sup>likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, <sup>10</sup>but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, you are the one infinite, eternal, and unchangeable God. Out of your loving kindness you have revealed yourself to us in your Word, through your Son, and by your Spirit. We confess that our prayer-less lives reveal how meager our faith in you truly is. We say we believe in your power and love but rely on ourselves. Please forgive us for responding to the challenges of life with fear instead of faith, indifference instead of empathy, or prideful striving instead of prayer. Reveal yourself to us again in your word. Remind us of your love for us and your power to save and provide. Make us people who are eager to pray and adorn our lives with good works for your glory. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our Savior, our Mediator, and our Friend. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Isaiah 53*

Pastor: Hear the good news of our Savior, Jesus Christ declared centuries before his birth by the prophet Isaiah. “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

All: **But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”**

Pastor: As you are united to Jesus Christ by faith, your sins have been atoned for through the shedding of his blood on your behalf, and you are forgiven.  
The peace of God be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 246 “Man of Sorrows! What a Name”

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

### 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: 735 "Gloria Patri"

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 629 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Nehemiah 1*

<sup>1</sup>The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, <sup>2</sup>that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

<sup>4</sup>As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>6</sup>let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. <sup>7</sup>We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup>Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, <sup>9</sup>but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ <sup>10</sup>They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. <sup>11</sup>O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

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

**SERMON:**

“First Responder”

Rev. Jeff Pate

# COMMUNION

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HYMN: “Are You Weary, Are You Languid” (*see insert*)

## 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.*

HYMN: 95 “Though Troubles Assail Us”

## BENEDICTION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

February 3 Nora Crawford  
February 4 Chanley Henson  
February 4 Bill Hewett  
February 4 Lorrie Pate  
February 7 Kay Kirkley  
February 7 Olivia Patridge  
February 8 Jacob Bell

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

## COVENANT KIDS CLUB

Covenant Kids Club is tonight from 5:30-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## YOUTH GROUP SUPER BOWL PARTY

All youth are invited to Nathan Staggs's house (6139 Greystone Ct. 35406) tonight from 5:30-7:00pm. Bring your 2 Corinthians handout from last Sunday for halftime Bible study.

## PIER GROUPS

Weekly Bible study groups (Pier Groups) will resume this week. To find out times, topics, and locations of the groups, look on the website ([www.riverwoodchurch.org](http://www.riverwoodchurch.org)) and click on "Forms and Sign-ups." You'll find a tab for Pier Groups. Check it out and sign up for a group while you're there.

## SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, February 5, at 6:30pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

## ATTENTION RIDGE HAVEN CAMPERS AND FAMILIES

It is time to register for Ridge Haven Camp - May 25-30. Remember, this is a discount week, so it fills quickly. Sign up by February 15 for a reduced rate. To sign up, go to the Ridge Haven website ([www.ridgehaven.org](http://www.ridgehaven.org)). Please let Joann Williams know that you are going to help plan drivers and fund raising needs.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Monday, February 17: Youth Service Project  
Friday, February 21: Youth Lock-In  
Sunday, March 29: Ridge Haven Fundraiser Lunch

# 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 - 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 2: Sarah Vander Wal / Debbie Jones / Gracen Miller & Eli Bell / Kay Kirkley  
February 9: Lynn Tootle / Katharine Bedsole / Greg Vander Wal & Caleigh Henson / Aaron Powers

**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*