

Amid the fears that oppress our day,
Across the clouds that obscure our way,
One golden truth sheds its shining ray—
Our God is sovereign still!

Margaret Clarkson

His ways belong to eternity, we to time; his vision is for the world, we are local; his ceaselessness keeps him always ahead of the point we have reached.

J. Alec Motyer

The assumption of spirituality is that always God is doing something before I know it. So the task is not to get God to do something I think needs to be done, but to become aware of what God is doing so that I can respond to it and participate and take delight in it.

Eugene Peterson

Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. Our broken lives are not lost or useless. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out his wonderful plan of love.

Eric Liddell

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 9, 2020 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Fifth 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

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 25*

Leader: Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

All: **He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.**

Pastor: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep covenant and his testimonies.

All: **The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.**

Pastor: Our eyes are ever toward the Lord.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN OF PRAISE: 165 “Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

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: *Romans 13:8-14*

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

O God, our Father, Forgive us for our many sins. We are easily captivated by the objects that our eyes desire. We are dominated by our emotions and anger overcomes us. We fall so often, and when we do, we run and hide in shame instead of running to you to confess our sin and find joy and forgiveness in the cross. You have given us your most cherished treasure, yet we prize many other things more highly than Christ. Give us the kind of heart that serves you and others with peaceful abandon, unconcerned about our own welfare and reputation, submissive and quiet before you. Cause us to cherish Christ above all other desires, so that we will be satisfied in him for all eternity. In his name we pray, Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 3:21-25*

Pastor: But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

People: For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
Pastor: and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

The gift of God's grace is ours. The peace of God be with you all.

People: And also with you.

HYMN: 455 “And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter 14:1-2

The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word, by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.

By this faith, a Christian believes to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acts differently upon that which each particular passage thereof contains; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HOLY SPIRIT

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul;
Bring the presence of the Risen Lord, to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for Your purity; Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

2. Holy Spirit, come abide within; may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least; gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made.
Show Your power once again on earth, cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 2:1-8*

¹In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ²And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." ⁶And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. ⁷And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

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

SERMON: "Divine Fingerprints"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 562 “All to Jesus I Surrender”

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: 605 “All the Way My Savior Leads Me”

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

February 13 Ceilidh Crawford
February 13 Wilson Pate
February 15 Abigail Jones

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

COVENANT KIDS CLUB

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

PIER GROUPS

Weekly Bible study groups (Pier Groups) began last week. To find out times, topics, and locations of the groups, look on the website (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.

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). 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
Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 & 8:00am: Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday, March 29: Ridge Haven Fundraiser Lunch

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

February 9: Lynn Tootle / Katharine Bedsole / Greg Vander Wal & Caleigh Henson / Aaron Powers
February 16: Lisa Kidder / Joanie Norris / Vielyana Kim & Chanley Henson / Parker Pate

FEBRUARY DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacon: Wayne Bell
Clean Up: Dusty Sheppard

FINANCIAL REPORT

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*