

# REFLECTIONS

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Joy is not a requirement of Christian discipleship, it is a consequence. It is not what we have to acquire in order to experience life in Christ; it is what comes to us when we are walking in the way of faith and obedience.

Eugene Peterson

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
from *The Cost of Discipleship*

What a revolution would come over the world – the world of starving bodies at home – the world of starving souls abroad – if something like this were the standard of giving; if God's people ventured on “making themselves poor” as Jesus did, for the sake of the need around; if the “I” – “me” – “mine” were practically delivered up, no longer to be recognized when they clash with those needs.

Lilias Trotter (1853-1928)  
Artist and Missionary to Algeria

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

Amy Carmichael  
Missionary to India

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

January 12, 2020 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### First Sunday after the Epiphany

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin  
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 121*

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

All: **From where does my help come?**

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

All: **Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Pastor: We gather to adore the Triune God who is our help and our salvation.  
Come, let us worship!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: 119** "I Sing the Almighty Power of 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

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## SCRIPTURE READING: *1 Peter 2:9-12*

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup>Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we come to you not because we are choice people, but because we are chosen people. You loved us when we were your enemies and sent your Son for our salvation when we were still dead in our sins. We admit that if you had not chosen to love us, we would continue in rebellion and would not have loved you. Please forgive us for thinking we are more deserving of your love than others and then look down on them with condescension. Please forgive us for thinking our sins are more excusable or our good works more acceptable and then take some credit for our salvation. Forgive us for thinking that the deep longings of our hearts can be satisfied by pursuing the worldly passions of our flesh and forgetting that we are sojourners here. Holy Spirit, set our minds on things that are above and prepare us for our eternal home with you. We ask these things in Jesus's name, amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *1 Peter 2:21,24-25; Isaiah 53:6*

Pastor: Hear the good news that is the power of God to salvation. Jesus Christ suffered for you..He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

All: **All we like sheep have gone astray...and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Pastor: Since Jesus, the Lamb of God, has been sacrificed for you, your sins are forgiven. May the peace of God be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 305 "Arise, My Soul, Arise"

# COMMITMENT

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

### DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *from Philippians 2:6-11*

Leader: Whom do we worship as our Lord and King?

People: We worship Jesus Christ as our Lord and King, “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 334 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Genesis 28:10-22*

<sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! <sup>13</sup>And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. <sup>14</sup>Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup>Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

<sup>16</sup>Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

<sup>18</sup>So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. <sup>19</sup>He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. <sup>20</sup>Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, <sup>21</sup>so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, <sup>22</sup>and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

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

SERMON:                               "From Fugitive to Pilgrim"                               Rev. Jeff Pate

# COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** “Christ Is Mine Forevermore”

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him.  
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings.  
But mine is hope in my Redeemer, though I fall, his love is sure  
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore.

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood.  
Through the valley I must travel, where I see no earthly good.  
But mine is peace that flows from heaven, and the strength in times of need  
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes his work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way  
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for his name.  
But mine is armour for this battle, strong enough to last the war.  
And he has said he will deliver safely to the golden shore.

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk  
For there my heart has found its treasure, Christ is mine forevermore.

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson  
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## **RESPONSIVE READING:**

**Pastor:** God nourishes us in the sacraments, means of grace in which his deeds elicit our response. In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection, and to unite us to him and to each other.

**All:** **We take this food gladly, announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life and that he shall come again to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.**

## **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:** 598 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

## **BENEDICTION**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

January 12 Kathy Gilbert  
January 13 Edith Gill  
January 14 Will Jones  
January 15 James Tullidge

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting immediately after the morning worship service today. The purpose of the meeting will be officer elections and a presentation of the 2020 budget. Please plan to attend.

## 2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Your detailed 2019 contribution statements are located in the foyer. Please pick up your envelope today. After Sunday, January 26, all remaining statements will be placed in the mail.

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

## COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

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

## PARENTING CONFERENCE: JANUARY 24-25

*Mark your calendar! Pick up flyers! Tell your friends!* This conference, titled Gospel-Centered Parenting, is not just for parents. It is for grandparents, aunts, uncles, caregivers, teachers, and anyone who works with children. Remember, the entire church takes a vow with each child's baptism to help the parents raise their children in the Covenant Community. Go to the church website to learn more. There is no fee to attend this event.

## 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.

# 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:**

January 12: April Henry / Lorrie Pate / Tammy & Peter Bell / Victoria Bell  
January 19: Michelle Moss / April Henry / Heather & Ceilidh Crawford / Peter Vander Wal

**JANUARY DEACON SCHEDULE:**

Head Deacon: Ed Kidder  
Clean Up: Wayne Bell

## FINANCIAL REPORT

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*Through December 2019:*

Operating Income:	\$422,789.43
Operating Expense*:	\$412,578.07
Net Income:	\$10,211.36
Designated gifts:	\$125,862.31
Building loan balance:	\$796,528.87

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*