

REFLECTIONS

The wildly generous disciple does not talk about a strict definition of tithing because they never intend to stop there. They are always headed somewhere beyond the tithe. They are like the runner who glides through the tape at the finishing line looking multiple yards down the track. They are not blinded by limited vision. They have the farsightedness of a generous heart and soul that has fully surrendered.

Dr. George Bullard

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

The grace of God makes Christ precious to us, so that our possessions, our money, our time have all become eternally and utterly expendable. They used to be crucial to our happiness. They are not so now.

Tim Keller

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

January 13, 2019 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

First Sunday after the Epiphany
Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Bob Thornton
Dr. Linda Graham, piano

WELCOME

Program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.

PRELUDE

The Light of the World Is Jesus

Philip P. Bliss

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 3:8 and James 1:16-18*

Pastor: Salvation belongs to the Lord;

All: **your blessing be on your people!**

Pastor: Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

All: **Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN OF PRAISE: 116 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

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: *Malachi 3:6-10 and Matthew 23:23*

⁶“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.
⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ ⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”

²³“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done without neglecting the others.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world to reveal your love for us, and to redeem us as a people who walk in that light. But we have obscured the glory of your presence within us. We have sinned in thought, word and deed. Where you have loved with an overwhelming love, our love has been measured, both to you and to our neighbor. Where you have given prodigiously, we have been miserly in service and in giving. Where you spoke boldly to us, we have been silent to others. We have all too often been overcome by fear instead of relying on your protection. In all this, we have chosen to walk in darkness instead of in your glorious light. In your great mercy, forgive us. Fill us again with your Spirit. Give us generous and loving hearts so that we are renewed to do your will and to show forth the glory that shines in our Lord and our only Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray only in his holy name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 2 Corinthians 8:9*

Pastor: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, for though he was rich,

All: yet for our sake he became poor, so that we, by his poverty, might become rich.

Pastor: Through his mercy, love and sacrifice, we have been redeemed and renewed. The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

COMMITMENT

HYMN: 230 “Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *I Know Whom I Have Believed* arr. Lloyd Larson
Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus
Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever
believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.
(John 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICER CANDIDATES

Wayne Bell (deacon)
John Kim (elder)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: “Holy Spirit” (*lyrics on page 6*)

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. ⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. ¹¹So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. ¹²For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

SERMON:

“Tithing Isn’t the Goal”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 585 “Take My Life, and Let It Be” st. 1-3

RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Pastor: As the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread and offered thanksgiving to God, so too we now offer to God our thanks and praise.

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: 585 “Take My Life, and Let It Be” st. 4-6

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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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TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group meet tonight from 5:30-7:00pm (please note the new time!).

SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

January 13	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
January 20	Covenant Kids Club
January 27	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting of Riverwood Presbyterian Church *today* immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers and present the 2019 church budget. The officers ballot will include two new candidates. Wayne Bell will be presented for the office of Deacon and John Kim for the office of Elder. Other officers eligible for re-election will include Tom Arnold (deacon), Bruce DeHaan (deacon), Ed Kidder (deacon), Greg Vander Wal (deacon), Steven Crawford (elder), Robert Thornton (elder), and Allen Powers (elder). Please plan to attend this important meeting of our congregation as we confirm God's call in the lives of his servants and provision for the church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

January 13 Edith Gill
January 14 Will Jones
January 15 James Tullidge

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Matthew: Part Two, Establishing the Kingdom of God on Earth by Jen Wilkin
Study groups will meet beginning this week. Two groups are offered on Wednesdays: 10:00am in the Administration Building, and 6:00pm at the home of Lori Turner. Materials will be available at the first meeting, and a \$10 donation is appreciated to help with printing costs.

YOUTH LOCK-IN

There will be a youth group **LOCK-IN** this coming Friday, January 18, beginning at 6 p.m. Activities will include games, food, midnight worship, a movie, more games, sleeping (optional), and breakfast on Saturday morning before we wrap up at 8 a.m. This is for ALL YOUTH and is a great opportunity to invite someone new to visit. Be sure to bring a sleeping bag and a pillow!

WARRIOR PRESBYTERY WOMEN'S MINISTRIES ANNUAL MEETING

Riverwood will host the Women's Ministry Annual Meeting this Saturday, January 19 beginning at 9:00am. Our guest speaker will be Opal Hardgrove who will be sharing about the establishment of Sacred Roots Farm, a long term recovery program specifically designed for sexually exploited children and trafficked women and children. Jewelry made by women who have been freed from trafficking will be available for cash purchase. Childcare is available, and lunch will be served. Please contact Elena Arnold to RSVP and/or volunteer to help with food.

RIDGE HAVEN CAMP

Ridge Haven is for rising 3rd to 9th graders. If you have not already signed up for Ridge Haven camp from May 27 through June 1, please do so as soon as possible. This week fills up quickly. Please let Joann Williams know that your child will be attending to help plan for transportation. We will be having a fund raising meeting after the worship service next Sunday, January 20.

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: Greg & Sarah Vander Wal
Grades 4-6: Tom & Elena Arnold

MEETING IN THE BARN:

Youth Class led by Jeff Pate

MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Adult Class - *Beginnings: Studies in Genesis* led by Jimmy Hopper

MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Adult Class - *Radical* by David Platt - discussion led by Gene Martin

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

January 13: Michael Henry / Lorrie Pate / Kristen Hancock & Daniel Page / Rachel Drinkard
January 20: Michelle Moss / Darla Cook / Heather & Ceilidh Crawford / James Urban

JANUARY DEACON SCHEDULE:

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

January - December 2018:

Operating Income:	\$423,396.56
Operating Expense*:	\$428,458.08
Net Income:	(\$5,061.52)
Designated gifts:	\$89,429.12
Building loan balance:	\$873,655.62

*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment