

## REFLECTIONS

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Now we have received from God nothing but love and favor, for Christ has pledged and given us his righteousness and everything he has; he has poured out upon us all his treasures, which no man can measure and no angel can understand or fathom, for God is a glowing furnace of love, reaching even from the earth to the heavens.

Martin Luther

Is it a small thing in your eyes to be loved by God – to be the son, the spouse, the love, the delight of the King of glory? Christian, believe this, and think about it: you will be eternally embraced in the arms of the love which was from everlasting, and will extend to everlasting – of the love which brought the Son of God's love from heaven to earth, from earth to the cross, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to glory – that love which was weary, hungry, tempted, scorned, scourged, buffeted, spat upon, crucified, pierced – which fasted, prayed, taught, healed, wept, sweated, bled, died. That love will eternally embrace you.

Richard Baxter

In our daily experience, we have all sorts of spiritual ups and downs – sin, failure, discouragement – all of which tend to make us question God's love. That is because we keep thinking that God's love is somehow conditional. We are afraid to believe his love is based entirely upon the finished work of Christ for us.

Jerry Bridges

from *The Fruitful Life*

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

January 26, 2020 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Leader In Worship: Rev. Jeff Bryant, Assisting Elder Gene Martin  
Dr. Linda Graham, piano

#### WELCOME

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

#### PRELUDE

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain?*

Thomas Campbell

*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 92*

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praises to the name of the Most High;

All: **to declare his steadfast love in the morning  
and his faithfulness by night,**

Leader: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

All: **For the Lord has made me glad by his work;  
at the works of his hands I sing for joy.**

Leader: Come, let us worship.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: 635** “How Good It Is to Thank the Lord”

#### 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: *Psalm 51:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. <sup>6</sup>Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7*

Leader: Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

All: **In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: "In Christ Alone" (*lyrics on the next page*)

# IN CHRIST ALONE

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1. In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend  
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# COMMITMENT

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

*His Eye Is On the Sparrow*

Charles H. Gabriel

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”

## MISSIONS MOMENT

HYMN: 597 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Romans 8:31-39*

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.

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

**SERMON:** “Death, Taxes, and the Love of God” Rev. Jeff Bryant

## COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** 252 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**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:** 518 “Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground”

**BENEDICTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

January 27 David Jackson  
January 27 Shannon Skelton  
January 30 Jeremy Jones  
January 31 Caleigh Henson

## 2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

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

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

## 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.

## LOVE INC: HOMELESS CONNECT

Love INC is holding their annual Homeless Connect event this Saturday, February 1, and volunteers are still needed. For more information about the event or to sign up to volunteer, visit [www.loveinctuscaloosa.com](http://www.loveinctuscaloosa.com) or contact Greg Vander Wal (501-786-1471).

## 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.

## PIER GROUPS

Weekly Bible study groups (Pier Groups) will resume the first week in February. 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.

# 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 26: Kristina Patridge / Heather Henson / Michael & April Henry / Gabe Henson  
February 2: Sarah Vander Wal / Debbie Jones / Gracen Miller & Eli Bell / Kay Kirkley

## **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*