

# REFLECTIONS

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As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead.

John R. W. Stott

O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams.

St. Augustine

By the Spirit we have communion - direct and immediate communion - with no one less than the Son and the Father themselves. The Holy Spirit is God Himself living in us.

Herman Bavinck

Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.

Corrie ten Boom

The life of holiness is the life of faith in which the believer, with a deepening knowledge of his own sin and helplessness apart from Christ, increasingly casts himself upon the Lord, and seeks the power of the Spirit and the wisdom and comfort of the Bible to battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Edmund P. Clowney

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

January 3, 2021 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Second Sunday after Christmas Day

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton  
Joann Williams, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers  
Linda Graham, 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 Luke 1*

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

**All: as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies...**

Pastor: God has shown his mercy and kept his covenant promise made to Abraham,

**All: to grant that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

Pastor: Come, see, and hear of the covenant mercies of our triune God.

Come through faith in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Come, let us worship.

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HYMN: 398 "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return  
till thy mercy's beams I see;  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit, then, this soul of mine;  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, Radiancy divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

#### 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: *Psalms 143*

<sup>1</sup>Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! <sup>2</sup>Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. <sup>3</sup>For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. <sup>4</sup>Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. <sup>5</sup>I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands. <sup>6</sup>I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. <sup>7</sup>Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. <sup>8</sup>Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. <sup>9</sup>Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge. <sup>10</sup>Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! <sup>11</sup>For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble! <sup>12</sup>And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies, and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

**Almighty God, hear our cries for mercy and answer us in your faithfulness. We confess that there is nothing in us that deserves your love or your favor. We deserve judgment but ask for mercy. Please forgive us for our obsession with ourselves while we give little thought to you. Forgive us for having minds fixated on the things that are below when you have called us to think on things that are above, in heaven with you. Please forgive and deliver us from our sin. Holy Spirit, lead us on the level ground of your inspired Word. We ask all this in the name of the One who came and died for us, Jesus Christ, our horn of salvation. Amen.**

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *1 John 4:9-10*

Pastor: Lift up your heads and hear the gospel of our salvation. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that he sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

All: **In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loves us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

Pastor: Through faith in God's Son, your sins have been forgiven and you have been reconciled to God. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION

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**HYMN:** 461 “Not What My Hands Have Done”

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;  
not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.

Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;  
not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;  
thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.

Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee,  
can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;  
thy pow’r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.

No other work, save thine, no other blood will do;  
no strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;  
and with unfalt’ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.

His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in his tomb  
each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling’ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;  
he calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.

‘Tis he who saveth me, and freely, pardon gives;  
I love because he loveth me, I live because he lives.

## COMMITMENT

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### OFFERING

*\*Tithes and offerings will be collected by deacons following the morning service as congregants leave the sanctuary.*

## 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: “Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen, amen.

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 337 “O Spirit of the Living God” st. 1-4

O Spirit of the living God,  
in all thy plenitude of grace,  
where-e'er the foot of man hath trod,  
descend on our apostate race.

Give tongues of fire and hearts of love  
to preach the reconciling word;  
give pow'r and unction from above,  
when-e'er the joyful sound is heard.

Be darkness, at thy coming, light;  
confusion, order in thy path;  
souls without strength inspire with might;  
bid mercy triumph over wrath.

O Spirit of the Lord, prepare  
all the round earth her God to meet;  
breathe thou abroad like morning air,  
till hearts of stone begin to beat.

## PREACHING OF THE WORD

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SCRIPTURE: *1 Thessalonians 5:19-22*

<sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

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

SERMON: “Living with Fire”

Rev. Jeff Pate

## Writing His Word on our hearts: 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10

<sup>8</sup>“But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.”





# COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** 337 “O Spirit of the Living God” st. 5-6

Baptize the nations; far and nigh  
the triumphs of the cross record;  
the name of Jesus glorify,  
till every kindred call him Lord.

God from eternity hath willed  
all flesh shall his salvation see:  
so be the Father’s love fulfilled,  
the Savior’s sufferings crowned through thee.

**RESPONSIVE READING:** *Psalm 103:1-5; Revelation 5:12*

**Pastor:** Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

**All:** **Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,**

**Pastor:** ...who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**All:** **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!**

## 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.*

# BENEDICTION

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**HYMN:** “For Your Gift of God the Spirit”  
(sung to the tune of “All the Way My Savior Leads Me”)

For your gift of God the Spirit, pow’r to make our lives anew,  
pledge of life and hope of glory, Savior, we would worship you.  
Crowning gift of resurrection sent from your ascended throne,  
fullness of the very Godhead, come to make your life our own.

He who in creation’s dawning brooded on the lifeless deep,  
still across our nature’s darkness moves to wake our souls from sleep,  
moves to stir, to draw, to quicken, thrusts us through with sense of sin;  
brings to birth and seals and fills us – saving Advocate within.

He, himself the living Author, wakes to life the sacred Word,  
reads with us its holy pages and reveals our risen Lord.  
He it is who works within us, teaching rebel hearts to pray,  
he whose holy intercessions rise for us both night and day.

He, the mighty God, indwells us; his to strengthen, help, empow’r;  
his to overcome the tempter, ours to call in danger’s hour.  
In his strength we dare to battle all the raging hosts of sin,  
and by him alone we conquer foes without and foes within.

Father, grant your Holy Spirit in our hearts may rule today,  
grieved not, quenched not, but unhindered, work in us his sovereign way.  
Fill us with your holy fullness, God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
in us, through us, then, forever, shall your perfect will be done.

## BENEDICTION

**DISMISSING HYMN:** 263 “Lift High the Cross”

*Refrain:*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Thy kingdom come, that earth’s despair may cease  
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

*(Refrain)*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

January 3 Ken Gilbert  
January 6 Vetta Lavender

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

## NO YOUTH GROUP OR COVENANT KIDS CLUB

Youth Group and Covenant Kids Club will NOT meet tonight. Activities resume next Sunday, January 10, at 5:30pm.

## CATECHISM RESUMES THIS WEEK

Children's catechism class meets this week Wednesday, January 6, from 3:30-4:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Through November 2020:*

Operating Income:	\$361,595.33
Operating Expense*:	\$374,148.47
Net Income:	(\$12,553.14)
Designated gifts:	\$88,349.43
Building loan balance:	\$746,149.12

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*