

# REFLECTIONS

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The eyes cannot see what is right, and the ears cannot hear, and the feet cannot guide us in the right way, till we are united to Christ. Though the senses of men are abundantly acute wherever they are impelled by sinful passions; though the tongue is eloquent for slander, perjury, lying, and every kind of foolish speaking; though the hands are too ready for thefts, extortions, and cruelty; though the feet are swift to do injury; and, in short, though the whole of our nature is not only willing but strongly bent on doing what is evil; yet we are altogether slothful and dull to do what is good, and therefore every part of us must be created anew by the power of Christ, that it may begin to understand aright, to feel, to speak, and to perform its offices; for “no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3).

John Calvin  
*Commentary on Isaiah*

It is true that justification can only be appropriated on the ground of our union with Christ. But we cannot be in the light about our union with the perfect righteousness which covers our sin without simultaneously being in the light about the power available to transform our lives and displace our sin. We cannot be in union with half a Christ as the Puritans would say. We must appropriate a whole Christ if we are to remain in light and thus in spiritual life.

Richard Lovelace  
*Dynamics of Spiritual Life*

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

January 5, 2020 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

**Second Sunday after Christmas Day**  
Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin  
David Bedsole, 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: *Psalm 29*

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

All: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**

Pastor: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

All: **May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** 103 “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

### 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: *Hebrews 12:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.

<sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

<sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we have gathered together to worship you today. As we do, we confess that our hearts are often divided in devotion, our minds consumed with worldly concerns, our affections bent toward personal glory and our time spent in selfish pursuits. If left in our sinfulness, we would trample your courts bringing vain offerings and practicing worthless religion. Wash us. Cleanse us with the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. Change us. Holy Spirit abiding in us, make us like our Savior who is obedient, just, merciful, and compassionate. In his name we pray, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Isaiah 1:18; 1 Corinthians 6:11*

Pastor: Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:  
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;

All: **though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.**

Pastor: Through faith in God's Son, you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.  
May the peace of God be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 253 “There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood”

# COMMITMENT

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions and Answers 19-21*

Leader: What misery did the fall bring upon mankind?

People: **The fall brought upon mankind loss of communion with God, and his wrath and curse, so that we are justly liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to punishment in hell for ever.**

Leader: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?

People: **God, solely out of his love and mercy, from all eternity elected some to everlasting life, and entered into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer.**

Leader: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

People: **The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person for ever.**

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: "Come, O Creator Spirit Blest"

# COME, O CREATOR SPIRIT BLEST

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1. Come, O Creator Spirit blest, and in our hearts take up your rest;  
Spirit of grace, with heav'nly aid come to the souls whom you have made.
2. You are the Comforter, we cry, sent to the earth from God Most High,  
fountain of life and fire of love, and our anointing from above.
3. Bringing from heav'n our sev'nfold dow'r, sign of our God's right hand of pow'r,  
O blessed Spirit, promised long, your coming wakes the heart to song.
4. Make our dull minds with rapture glow, let human hearts with love o'erflow;  
and when our feeble flesh would fail, may your immortal strength prevail.
5. Far from our souls the foe repel, grant us in peace henceforth to dwell;  
ill shall not come, nor harm betide, if only you will be our guide.
6. Show us the Father, Holy One, help us to know th'eternal Son;  
Spirit divine, forevermore you will we trust and you adore.

## PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Isaiah 35*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

SERMON: "Reversing the Curse"

Rev. Jeff Pate

# COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** 420 “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

**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:** 700 “Come, We That Love the Lord”

**BENEDICTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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 EVENING ACTIVITIES

There will be no Youth Group or Covenant Kids Club this evening. Please enjoy this time with your family and friends. Both groups will resume meeting next Sunday, January 12.

CATECHISM RESUMES THIS WEEK

Children’s catechism classes resume this week Wednesday, January 8 at 3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

January 6 Vetta Lavender  
January 10 Brenda Sheppard

## SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

## WARRIOR PRESBYTERY WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNUAL MEETING

Trinity Presbyterian Church will host the Women's Ministry Annual Meeting this Saturday, January 11 at 9:30am. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 9:00am. The guest speaker will be Amy Buettner, a member of Trinity. Childcare is available, and lunch will be served.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting immediately after the morning worship service next Sunday, January 12, 2020. The purpose of the meeting will be officer elections and a presentation of the 2020 budget. Please plan to attend.

## 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 - *The Providence of God* by R. C. Sproul - 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 5: Michael Henry / Darla Cook / Lisa Kidder & Daniel Page / Quay Finch  
January 12: April Henry / Lorrie Pate / Tammy & Peter Bell / Victoria Bell

## JANUARY DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacon: Ed Kidder  
Clean Up: Wayne Bell

# FINANCIAL REPORT

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Through November 2019:

Operating Income:	\$374,803.58
Operating Expense*:	\$375,426.11
Net Income:	(\$622.53)
Designated gifts:	\$94,713.55
Building loan balance:	\$804,521.01

\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment