

Only a fraction of the present body of professing Christians are solidly appropriating the justifying work of Christ in their lives... In their day-to-day existence they rely on their sanctification for justification... Few know enough to start each day with a thoroughgoing stand upon Luther's platform: you are accepted, looking outward in faith and claiming the wholly alien righteousness of Christ as the only ground for acceptance, relaxing in that quality of trust which will produce increasing sanctification as faith is active in love and gratitude.

Richard Lovelace
Dynamics of Spiritual Life

The Greek work for church, ecclesia, is made up of a prefix and a root. The prefix is ek - out of. The root is the verb coleo, to call. The church in the New Testament is made up of those who are called out from the world, from darkness, from damnation, from paganism, to become members of the body of Christ.

R. C. Sproul
The Purpose of God

The church is that assembly of people who belong to the Lord, who are gathered together for Him. The gospel of Jesus Christ calls individuals out of the world of sin and death and into eternal light and life; it takes people who were no people and turns them into a special people for God (1 Peter 2:9-10). That's what the church is. It's the assembly of people living under the rule of Jesus and committed to each other in the faith.

Thabiti Anyabwile
The Local Church

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

July 18, 2021 • 11:00 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Clay Staggs

Ginny Coleman, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 145*

Pastor: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

All: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Pastor: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.

**All: The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Pastor: May our mouths speak the praise of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.
Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 21 "Sing Praise to the Lord!"

Sing praise to the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, you angels of light.
You heavens, adore him by whom you were made,
and worship before him in brightness arrayed.

Sing praise to the Lord! Praise him on the earth
in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth.
Praise him who has brought you his grace from above;
praise him who has taught you to sing of his love.

Sing praise to the Lord! All things that give sound,
each jubilant chord, reecho around.
Loud organs, his glory tell forth in deep tone,
and trumpets, the story of what he has done.

Sing praise to the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along!
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, sing praise to 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

SCRIPTURE READING: *Jeremiah 5:20-25*

²⁰Declare this in the house of Jacob; proclaim it in Judah: ²¹“Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not. ²²Do you not fear me? declares the Lord. Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot pass over it. ²³But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away. ²⁴They do not say in their hearts, ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.’ ²⁵Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have kept good from you.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN: *from Isaiah 30*

Pastor: In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

All: **Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love, all by neglecting your Word. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Micah 7*

Pastor: With eyes on our God who redeems us, with the prophet Micah we joyfully proclaim, “Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?”

All: God delights to show steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. He will cast our sins into the depths of the sea.

Pastor: God showed his compassion for you by sending his own Son, Jesus Christ, to die for your sins. In doing so, he tread your iniquities under the foot of his justice, cast your sins into the depth of the sea and you are forgiven.
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: “Amazing Love”

My Lord, what love is this
that pays so dearly;
That I, the guilty one,
may go free?

Chorus:

Amazing love, O what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt He pays and my death He dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

And so they watched Him die,
despised, rejected;
But, O the blood He shed
flowed for me.

And now this love of Christ
shall flow like rivers;
Come wash your guilt away,
live again.

Words and music by Graham Kendrick
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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: *Colossians 1:15-20*

Leader: What do you believe concerning Jesus Christ?

All: I believe that: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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: 382 “God Himself Is with Us”

God himself is with us: let us now adore him,
and with awe appear before him.

God is in his temple – all within keep silence,
prostrate lie with deepest rev’rence.

Him alone God we own,
him, our God and Savior; praise his name forever.

God himself is with us: hear the harps resounding!

See the crowds the throne surrounding!

“Holy, holy, holy” – hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!

Bow thine ear to us here:
hear, O Christ, the praises that thy church now raises.

O thou fount of blessing, purify my spirit;
trusting only in thy merit,

like the holy angels who behold thy glory,
may I ceaselessly adore thee,

and in all, great and small,
seek to do most nearly what thou lovest dearly.

COMMUNION

HYMN: 347 “The Church’s One Foundation” st. 1-3

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word:
from heav’n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev’ry nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes on holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev’ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Pastor: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

All: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

All: The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.

Pastor: Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.

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

HYMN: 347 “The Church’s One Foundation” st. 4-6

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

‘Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

July 19 Hannah Urban
July 22 Lisa Kidder
July 24 Darla Cook

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

There will be a Congregational Meeting following Morning Worship today for the purpose of the election of officers. Dustin Sheppard was nominated to serve as a Ruling Elder and Marvin Skelton was nominated to serve as a Deacon. Both have completed officer training and have been examined and approved by the Session and will stand for election by the Congregation. Additionally, Steven Crawford has been on sabbatical and wishes to return to service as a Deacon, a position he previously held and in which he has been ordained to serve. Jeremy Jones, an ordained Deacon, also is returning to service. Both will be on the ballot for approval for service. Following the Congregational Meeting, there will be dinner on the grounds, a time of good food and fellowship.

FAMILY FUN DAY AT LAKE LURLEEN

The Children's Ministry has reserved the Beach Pavilion at Lake Lurleen State Park this Saturday, July 24 beginning at 10:00am. This is a day for the Riverwood Family to enjoy. Bring your lunch, beach toys, swimsuit, hiking boots, water craft, fishing poles, etc. for a day of Fellowship and Fun. Come and go according to your schedule. Admission to the park is \$3 per adult, \$1 per senior or child. If you have any questions, please contact Joann.

BACKPACKS FOR WINGS OF GRACE

As part of VBS and during the month of July, we will be collecting school supplies to be placed in backpacks in Covenant Kid's Club and distributed to children in the community through Wings of Grace. We are collecting pencils, pens, erasers, highlighters, glue sticks, scotch tape, crayons, colored pencils, kid scissors, pocket folders, 1 and 2 inch three-ring binders, and wide-ruled notebook paper. A box is in the Narthex to collect these supplies. If you have any questions, please contact Joann (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WARRIOR PRESBYTERY WOMEN'S MINISTRY SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

The annual spiritual connection is next Saturday, July 31, 2021, at Faunsdale Presbyterian Church. Registration is 9:00-9:30am, and lunch and childcare are provided. Kindly RSVP by 10:00am on Monday, July 26, by phone or text to Gail Rankin at 334-341-3322; please indicate if you have children who will need childcare. The program will feature Tollie Meggs from Out of the Boat Ministries. Tollie is a gifted Bible teacher and conference speaker. She also leads retreats and conferences around the world. Her ministry operates a mission house in northern Serbia (eastern Europe) and has built a school/discipleship center in India. Her home base is Capstone Church in Tuscaloosa. She is married to Tony, a retired USAF LT COL who works for the Veterans Administration, and they have an adult daughter, Lucy. Come hear Tollie's message as she will surely encourage and challenge us.

TEACHERS AND AIDES NEEDED FOR CATECHISM

Catechism is scheduled to resume on Wednesday, August 18 from 3:30-5:00pm. The Catechism program is also utilized by RCS families. I am anticipating 30-40 children attending this fall. HELP IS NEEDED! Specifically, the program will need a minimum of 4 teachers and 4 teacher's aides. The plan is to divide the children into four groups for Bible lessons and memorization work. All teaching materials will be provided. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Joann.

TEACHERS FOR RCS

Riverwood Classical School is seeking teachers for the upcoming school year. Please be in prayer that God would raise up people passionate about helping students fulfill their God-given mandate to spread his glory to the ends of the earth. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Addison Canevaro (mrcanevaro@riverwoodclassical.org).

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2021

Operating Income:	\$211,998.73
Operating Expense*:	\$244,092.10
Net Income:	(\$32,093.37)
Designated gifts:	\$46,608.00
Building loan balance:	\$676,660.44

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*