

God aims to exalt himself by working for those who wait for him. Prayer is the essential activity of waiting for God: acknowledging our helplessness and his power, calling upon him for help, seeking his counsel.... Prayer is the antidote for the disease of self-confidence...

John Piper

The life, power and glory of the church is prayer. The life of its members is dependent on prayer, and the presence of God is secured and retained by prayer. The very place is made sacred by its ministry. Without it, the church is lifeless and powerless.

E.M. Bounds

Go to Him, for He is accessible always. Wherever and whenever you need Him, He is there. "I will never leave you nor forsake you," He says. He is never indifferent to our condition, never annoyed that we are troubling Him again, never untouched by our pain, and never too preoccupied with other things. He won't mock us, nor turn us away. Instead, He invites us to come to Him, and He promises us rest. Go, then, to Him! To whom else can you go?

Geoffry Thomas

He shall sit as a priest upon his throne. 'Ask of me and I will give thee... as thy possession.' What he receives as Priest he dispenses as King and somehow the whole aspect of prayer has been reversed. I used to think that our intercession must sweep round from us to him and bring back the answer, but now I see it differently; it all starts with him and sweeps down here as low as our helplessness, then back to his throne, the place of power and authority.

Lilias Trotter (1853-1928)
Artist and Missionary to Algeria

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

July 21, 2019 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Bob Thornton
Joann Williams, 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 96

Pastor: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

All: **Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

All: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN OF PRAISE: 376 "Open Now the Gates of Beauty"

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: *Nehemiah 1:4-11*

⁴As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. ⁸Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' ¹⁰They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Eternal and merciful God, you created us to know you and to be in fellowship with you as we bear your image. You have revealed yourself to us in your Word as the one true and living God whose ear is not deaf that you cannot hear and whose arm is not short that you cannot save. You promise to hear our prayers and act in accordance with your good and perfect will. But we are often prayerless. We confess that our lack of prayer exposes our prideful self-reliance and unbelief in your willingness to listen or your ability to act. Please forgive us. Help us to know you as you have revealed yourself in your Word and through your Son. Holy Spirit, help us to see the privilege of prayer and the access that has been granted to all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. In his name we pray, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *John 3:15-18*

Pastor: Hear the good news and believe. The Lord is near the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

All: The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned

Pastor: By God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 461 "Not What My Hands Have Done"

COMMITMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY “He Will Hold Me Fast” Words: A. Habershon and M. Merker; Music: M. Merker
Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Westminster Shorter Catechism #'s 98, 99, 100, 107*

Leader: What is prayer?

All: Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

Leader: What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?

All: The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer, but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the Lord's Prayer.

Leader: What does the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

All: The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is “Our Father who art in heaven,” teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

Leader: What does the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

All: The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen,” teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him; and, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: #628 “Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 6:16-20*

¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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

SERMON: "In Every Circumstance, Pray!" Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: "He Will Hold Me Fast" (lyrics on the following page)

RESPONSIVE READING:

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 to give Him thanks and praise!**

Pastor: It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, and Everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, along with the whole church on earth, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, ever more praising You and saying:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord Most High!**

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: 359 "Blest Be the Ties That Binds"

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSING HYMN: 263 "Lift High the Cross" v. 4

HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied,
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight,
When he comes at last!

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

COVENANT KID'S CLUB

Covenant Kid's Club meets tonight from 6:00-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets tonight from 6:00-8:00pm in the Barn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

July 22 Lisa Kidder

July 24 Darla Cook

July 25 Steve Nippert

July 26 Will Tootle

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR WINGS OF GRACE

The children of Riverwood will be collecting school supplies through the rest of July. They will be packing these supplies in backpacks to be distributed to the families through Wings of Grace. A box will be in the lobby of the sanctuary for these supplies. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

FAMILY FUN DAY AT LAKE LURLEEN

Join us for a day of fellowship and fun at Lake Lurleen State Park. We have reserved the Beach Pavilion. Bring you food, drink and anything else you need to enjoy your day at the lake with friends. Official time is 10:00 am to ?? but you can arrive early. Fees are \$4.00 per person 12-61 years of age, \$2.00 per child 4-11 years of age, \$2.00 for 62 years of age and older, and free for children under 3 years of age.

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 - The Life of David - led by elders

MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Adult Class - *The Legacy Journey* by Dave Ramsey - led by Gene Martin

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

July 21: Michelle Moss / Laura Silvashy / Heather & Ceilidh Crawford / Michael Henry
July 28: Kristina Patridge/Heather Henson/Michael & April Henry/Gabe Henson

JULY DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacon: Wayne Bell
Clean Up: Dusty Sheppard

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2019:

Operating Income:	\$209,635.27
Operating Expense*:	\$203,915.69
Net Income:	\$5,719.58
Designated gifts:	\$62,781.52
Building loan balance:	\$831,690.95

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*