

...unless we hold to the presupposition of the self-contained ontological Trinity, human rationality itself is a mirage.

Cornelius Van Til

To expect that we, who cannot understand anything, not even ourselves, should understand these mysteries of the Godhead, is to the last degree unreasonable. But as in every other sphere we must believe what we cannot understand; so we may believe all that God has revealed in his Word concerning Himself, although we cannot understand the Almighty unto perfection.

Charles Hodge

We enter into the Mystery of the Holy Trinity not so much by thinking and imagining, as by loving. Thought and imagination soon reach the limits beyond which they cannot pass, and these limits still fall infinitely short of the reality of God. But love, overstepping all bounds and flying beyond limitations with the wings of God's own Spirit, penetrates into the very depths of the mystery and apprehends Him whom our intelligence is unable to see.

Thomas Merton

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 11, 2018 • 11:00 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Bob Prince
Joann Williams, piano

WELCOME & PRELUDE *Grace Greater Than Our Sin* arr. J. Innes
Program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.
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 135*

Pastor: Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!

All: **Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;
sing to his name, for it is pleasant!**

Pastor: Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.

All: **For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion
on his servants!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN OF PRAISE: 119 "I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

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: *Isaiah 64:1-9*

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Lord, we know there is no God but you. We know of your mighty power, your glory, your holiness. We know, O Lord, that if you judged us for our thoughts and deeds, we are totally lost and without hope. But you created us, and called us, and redeemed us, and we come to you this morning to again confess our sins. We know that you are the God of grace. You are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive. We confess that we have sought our satisfaction in every wrong thing but we refused to come to you. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and forgive us. Restore us to newness of life, and seat us at your table of grace, that we may feast with delight on all that deeply satisfies the hungry heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *1 John 3:1-3*

Pastor: See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 521 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Take Time to Be Holy

arr. M. Schubert

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

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: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 341 “O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping through Us”

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *1 Corinthians 2:6-16*

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

SERMON:

“The Holy Spirit and the Wisdom of God”

Rev. Jeff Pate

SERMON NOTES

COMMUNION

HYMN: 644 “May the Mind of Christ My Savior” st. 1,2

RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pastor: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Pastor: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Pastor: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

People: **Grant us your peace.**

Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Pastor: The gifts of God are 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.

HYMN: 644 “May the Mind of Christ My Savior” st. 3-5

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

Due to spring break, Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will not meet tonight. Choir rehearsal is in the sanctuary at 5:00pm.

SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

March 11 Choir Rehearsal

March 18 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth / Evening Worship

March 25 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth / Choir Rehearsal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

March 16 Greg Vander Wal

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

SPRING BREAK

During spring break this week, there will be no Bible studies or children's catechism classes. Church office hours will also be intermittent. If needed, please feel free to contact church staff on their cell phones (numbers listed in the church directory).

EASTER BASKETS FOR WINGS OF GRACE

During our Family Easter Celebration on March 31, the children will be filling Easter baskets for Wings of Grace. The following supplies are needed for these baskets:

- Medium size baskets (8-12 inch diameter or equivalent)
- Large Plastic Eggs
- Candy to go in Plastic Eggs
- Candy for basket
- Toys
- Anything else you would include in an Easter basket

Please note: the baskets do not have to be the same. A box will be in the foyer until March 25 to collect these supplies.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL WORK DAY

The Riverwood deacons are planning a work day for Saturday, March 24. We will start at 8:00am, and lunch will be provided at noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to fellowship and serve the church. There will be jobs for all skill levels! If you are coming, please RSVP (deacons@riverwoodchurch.org) so we can plan for projects and food.

RCS TRIVIUM TROT

Riverwood Classical School is having their 7th Annual Trivium Trot Friday, April 13. Please come out and support the school at this fun event!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, March 21, 6:30pm: Session & Diaconate Meeting

Thursday, March 29, 6:00pm: Maundy Thursday service

Saturday, March 31: Family Easter Celebration

Friday, April 6: Children's Jammin Night

SUNDAY SCHOOL

At Riverwood Presbyterian Church we have Sunday School at 9:45am for all age groups.

MEETING DOWNSTAIRS:

Nursery: Multi-Staffed
2-3 year olds: Janalie Graham & Joanie Norris
4-5 year olds: Debbie Jones

MEETING UPSTAIRS:

Grades 1-3: Monica Urban
Grades 4-6: Ginny Nippert

MEETING IN THE BARN:

Youth Class – led by Jeff Pate

MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Adult Class

MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Adult Class – *Disability and the Gospel* led by Gene Martin

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

March 11: Kristina Patridge / Darla Cook / Heather & Ceilidh Crawford / Michael Henry
March 18: Denell Skaar / Joanie Norris / Lorrie Pate & Phoebe Bell / Sumlin Pate

MARCH DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacons: Tom Arnold & Steve Patridge
Clean Up: Dusty Sheppard & Chris Locklear

FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2018:

Operating Income:	\$57,817.37
Operating Expense*:	\$67,628.82
Net Income:	(\$9,811.45)
Designated gifts:	\$3,025.00
Building loan balance:	\$936,256.88

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*