

REFLECTIONS

God is able to work with or without human means. Though He most often uses them, He is not dependent upon them. Furthermore, He will frequently use some means altogether different from that which we would have expected. Sometimes our prayers for deliverance from some particular strait are accompanied by faith to the extent we can foresee some predictable means of deliverance. But God is not dependent upon means that we can foresee. In fact, it seems from experience that God delights to surprise us by His ways of deliverance to remind us that our trust must be in Him and Him alone.

Jerry Bridges
from *Trusting God*

As God can protect His people under the greatest despotism, so the utmost civil liberty is no safety to them without the immediate protection of His Almighty arm. I fear that Christians in this country have too great a confidence in political institutions...[rather] than of the government of God.

Alexander Carson
19th century pastor in Ireland

There are two main parts in this [new] covenant; the first regards the gratuitous remission of sins; and the other, the inward renovation of the heart; there is a third which depends on the second, and that is illumination of the mind as to the knowledge of God.....It is the fruit of the covenant, that God chooses us for his people, and assures us that he will be the guardian of our salvation.

John Calvin

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 13, 2022 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Second Sunday in Lent

Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
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 46 & Ephesians 2*

Pastor: God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: **Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

All: **God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.**

Pastor: Members of the household of God, in Christ Jesus you have been joined
together to grow into a holy temple in the Lord and built together into a
dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

All: **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 347 "The Church's One Foundation"

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.

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.

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: 1 Peter 4:12-19

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Father in Heaven, we are astounded that you who are holy and whose name is hallowed, would refer to us as *beloved*. We, whose sins were the cause of our Savior's suffering and death, deserve your disdain, but instead you have loved us. We confess that we are unworthy and undeserving of your love but we also rejoice that you have chosen to demonstrate your glory by lavishing such grace on your church. Please forgive us for our repeated failures to rest in the assurance of your love and therefore abide in the shelter of your sovereign grace. Have mercy on us for our anxious thoughts and our fear-filled reactions. When we face trials or experience suffering, strengthen our faith by helping us see the glory of Christ's suffering for our sake more clearly. We admit that when we are afraid or unsure, we are tempted to run back to old patterns of thinking and acting. Please forgive us. Holy Spirit, help us to entrust our souls to God and walk in a manner worthy of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

GOSPEL ASSURANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Ephesians 2*

- Pastor: Lift you heads and let your mouths and hearts be filled with good news!
All: **God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—**
- Pastor: by grace you have been saved
All: **—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**
- Pastor: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
All: **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**
- Pastor: By God's grace through faith in Jesus, you are forgiven and saved.
The peace of Christ be with you all.
All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: "Jesus, Strong and Kind"

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.

Chorus:

For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross. He will come to me.

Words and music by Colin Buchanan, Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, & Rich Thompson
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Westminster Larger Catechism Questions & Answers 72, 73*

Q. What is justifying faith?

A. Justifying faith is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby he, being convinced of his sin and misery, and of the disability in himself and all other creatures to recover him out of his lost condition, not only assents to the truth of the promise of the gospel, but receives and rests upon Christ and his righteousness, therein held forth, for pardon of sin, and for the accepting and accounting of his person righteous in the sight of God for salvation.

Q. How does faith justify a sinner in the sight of God?

A. Faith justifies a sinner in the sight of God, not because of those other graces which do always accompany it, or of good works that are the fruits of it, nor as if the grace of faith, or any act thereof, were imputed to him for his justification; but only as it is an instrument by which he receives and applies Christ and his righteousness.

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.

PRAYER & SUPPLICATION

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 94 “How Firm a Foundation”

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.”

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”

“Even down to old age all my people shall prove
my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.” .

READING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 7*

¹ In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. ² When the house of David was told, “Syria is in league with Ephraim,” the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

³ And the Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. ⁴ And say to him, ‘Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, ⁶ “Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,” ⁷ thus says the Lord God: “It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. ⁸ For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. And within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered from being a people. ⁹ And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.”

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

¹⁸ In that day the Lord will whistle for the fly that is at the end of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. ¹⁹ And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures. ²⁰ In that day the Lord will shave with a razor that is hired beyond the River—with the king of Assyria—the head and the hair of the feet, and it will sweep away the beard also. ²¹ In that day a man will keep alive a young cow and two sheep, ²² and because of the abundance of milk that they give, he will eat curds, for everyone who is left in the land will eat curds and honey.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

²³ In that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briars and thorns. ²⁴ With bow and arrows a man will come there, for all the land will be briars and thorns. ²⁵ And as for all the hills that used to be hoed with a hoe, you will not come there for fear of briars and thorns, but they will become a place where cattle are let loose and where sheep tread.

SERMON:

“Faith in the God Who Is with Us”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 92 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and pow’r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION: *Revelation 1:4b-7*

Pastor: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus
Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of
kings on earth.

All: **To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and
made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and
dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and all
tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

HYMN: 92 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

RIVERWOOD PRAYER FOR 2022

Almighty God, fill us with the knowledge of your will that we may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Holy Spirit, strengthen us with all power, according to your glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy that we may constantly give thanks to our Heavenly Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT RPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

1. We feed approximately 45 snacks a week to our children through Catechism and Covenant Kid's Club. We need individual wrapped snacks (no peanuts please) and individual drink boxes (e.g. capri sun/kool aid). You can leave the items in the foyer of the Sanctuary or the church office.
2. Volunteers are needed for April 9th Children's Event - "Walking with Christ". This event will be held from 9:00am-12:00. If you can help, please contact Joann Williams.
3. Easter Baskets for Wings of Grace. The children of Riverwood will once again be filling Easter baskets for Wings of Grace. We need the following items - stuffed animals, toys, candy, grass, and baskets. A box will be placed in the foyer of the Sanctuary for these items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THIS WEEK

This week, the church parking lot is being repaved so the church office will be closed.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 15:1-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-45

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids and Riverwood Youth will not meet tonight but will resume March 20.

YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT

This coming Wednesday (March 16) the youth will meet at the Powers' house at 6 PM for a movie night. The address is 1342 Downing Ridge, Tuscaloosa.

HOMELESS CONNECT WITH LOVE INC

You can make a difference in our local homeless community on April 30. For more information go to www.loveinctuscaloosa.com/homeless-connect/550-2/

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 27	RUF Music Team in morning worship Churchwide Fellowship meal (evening)
April 1	Trivium Trot 5K (RCS fundraiser)
April 2	Churchwide Workday (8 am)
April 9	Riverwood Kids: "Walking with Jesus" (9 am)

Through February 2022

Operating Income:	\$60,318.97
Operating Expense*:	\$70,533.92
Net Income:	(\$10,214.95)
Designated gifts:	\$16,992.88
Building loan balance:	\$714,581.54

*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment

BIRTHDAY

March 19 Marvin Skelton