

# REFLECTIONS

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Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid.

Frederick Buechner

Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear.

Ambrose Redmoon

The problem with anxious people is not merely that they think negatively about life. The problem is much more radical than that. Anxious people think untheologically about life.

Sinclair B. Ferguson

from *Kingdom Life in a Fallen World*

Any time we look into the newspapers, or into our own hearts, and despair, we do well to remember that God's people have faced similar prospects, similar reversals, similar headlines, similar assaults on faith, and have recovered from the doubt, been rescued from the pessimism and foreboding, and gone on to live in praise of God.

Eugene H. Peterson

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 15, 2020 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Third Sunday in Lent

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Clay Staggs  
Nancy Allen, 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: *from Psalm 111*

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

All: **I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Pastor: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of  
splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

All: **He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear him;

All: **he remembers his covenant forever.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: 1** “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

#### 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: *Luke 1:68-79*

<sup>68</sup>“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people <sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Eternal and Almighty God, you have raised up a horn of salvation for us, saving us from the guilt of our sin. You have shown us mercy by sending your Son for our deliverance and now desire for us to serve you without fear, in holiness and righteousness. We confess that we still struggle with fear. We admit our anxiety when faced with uncertain circumstances and the potential loss of health or wealth, comfort or convenience. Please forgive us. Help our unbelief and enable us to walk by faith. Holy Spirit, remind us again of the knowledge of our salvation in the forgiveness of our sins, and shed light into our darkness, guiding our feet into the way of peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 2 Corinthians 5*

Pastor: Hear the good news of your salvation! If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.

All: For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Thanks be to God!

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

**HYMN:** 691 “It Is Well with My Soul”

## OFFERING

*\*Tithes and offerings will be collected by deacons following the morning service as congregants leave the sanctuary.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

*The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**RESPONSE:** 735 “Gloria Patri”

**RECEPTION OF COMMUNING MEMBERS**

Leah & Ruthie Vander Wal

**HYMN:** “Speak, O Lord” (*lyrics on the next page*)

# SPEAK, O LORD

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1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.
2. Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail—let their truth prevail over unbelief.
3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
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## PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Nehemiah 4:1-14*

<sup>1</sup>Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. <sup>2</sup>And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” <sup>3</sup>Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!” <sup>4</sup>Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. <sup>5</sup>Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. <sup>6</sup>So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. <sup>7</sup>But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. <sup>8</sup>And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. <sup>9</sup>And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

*(continued on the next page)*

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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<sup>10</sup>In Judah it was said, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.” <sup>11</sup>And our enemies said, “They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work.”

<sup>12</sup>At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, “You must return to us.” <sup>13</sup>So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. <sup>14</sup>And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”

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

SERMON: “Fighting Fear with Fear” Rev. Jeff Pate

## COMMUNION

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HYMN: 528 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

### RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: With these words our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return in glory.

All: **In this supper God declares to us that our sins are completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the cross once for all.**

Pastor: He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who is bodily now in heaven at the right hand of the Father.

### 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: 609 “Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?”

### BENEDICTION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 16 Greg Vander Wal

March 19 Marvin Skelton

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

## COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club is tonight from 5:30-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Youth Group meets in the Barn from 5:30-7:30pm.

## SPRING BREAK

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

## OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Over the coming weeks, communing members of Riverwood will have the opportunity to submit names of individuals to potentially serve as church officers. Prior to nominating someone to the officer of Ruling Elder or Deacon, take time to reflect on the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and prayerfully consider if that person is a good candidate. Also, please share with the individual your desire to nominate him and ask if he would be willing to participate in the training and examination process that would follow this nomination.

## SPRING WORK DAY

The Facilities Team is planning a church wide work day for March 28th, from 8 am to noon. There will be opportunities for adults, youth, and children to help clean up, spruce up and fix up our church property. Lunch will be provided.

## ITEMS NEEDED FOR EASTER BASKETS

The children of Riverwood will be making 40 Easter baskets to be distributed by Wings of Grace to families in the area. Please be in prayer for this ministry. We also need toys, candy, and any other Easter basket items you would like to include. A box is in the narthex of the Sanctuary to collect these items.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, March 29: Ridge Haven Fundraiser Lunch

Saturday, April 4: Family Easter Celebration

# 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 - *Galatians* - 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:**

March 15: Aaron Powers / Heather Henson / Heather & Ceilidh Crawford / Quay Finch  
March 22: Peter Vander Wal / Ginny Nippert / Caleigh & Gabe Henson / Kay Kirkley

**MARCH DEACON SCHEDULE:**

Head Deacon: Dusty Sheppard  
Clean Up: Tom Arnold

## FINANCIAL REPORT

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*Through February 2020:*

Operating Income:	\$55,500.59
Operating Expense*:	\$62,302.80
Net Income:	(\$6,802.21)
Designated gifts:	\$2,355.00
Building loan balance:	\$775,527.50

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*