

REFLECTIONS

Now we have received from God nothing but love and favor, for Christ has pledged and given us his righteousness and everything he has; he has poured out upon us all his treasures, which no man can measure and no angel can understand or fathom, for God is a glowing furnace of love, reaching even from the earth to the heavens.

Martin Luther

God's eye is on the sparrow. Our eyes are so often on something with a little more prestige... But the Scripture keeps pressing us to hear this: God loves what is ubiquitous. God loves the world—every single part of it—the bland, the ugly, the dingy squishy-faced, the monotonous and grating. There is no way in which God reserves God's love for what the world finds beautiful or important. God loves the sinner. I believe God might like for us to have some of this love. Have it and share it—widely, all around.

Debbie Blue

It is easier to be enthusiastic about Humanity with a capital 'H' than it is to love individual men and women, especially those who are uninteresting, exasperating, deprived, or otherwise unattractive. Loving everybody in general may be an excuse for loving nobody in particular.

C. S. Lewis

Through “death on a cross” he not only “saved us,” but modeled for us God's way of dealing with the opposition - loving them to death.

Gordon Fee

from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 17, 2019 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Second Sunday in Lent

Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Jimmy Hopper
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

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 143:8; 57:9-11*

Pastor: O Lord, let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust.
Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

All: **I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.**

Pastor: For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: **Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN OF PRAISE: 80 “Lord, with Glowing Heart I’d Praise 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: *Psalm 19:7-14*

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. ¹³Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

O blessed Jesus, you know that our mouths and our hearts are unclean, unacceptable to you. You know the impurity of our affection, the narrowness of our sympathy, and the coldness of our love toward You and toward our neighbors. Our sins are hidden, so numerous that we can't recall them. Our sins are presumptuous because we know Your holiness, and yet we still sin. Cleanse us, Lord. Take possession of our souls and fill our minds with the image of yourself. Break the stubbornness of our selfish wills and mold us in the likeness of your unchanging love. We can never do this. Only You alone can do this, our Savior, our Lord, and our God. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Psalm 130*

Pastor: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

All:Hope in the Lord, for with the Lord, there is steadfast love,
and with Him is plentiful redemption.

Pastor: In Christ alone we can find redemption.
The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 44 "How Great Thou Art" st. 1,3,4

COMMITMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter 15

Leader: What do we believe regarding our sanctification?

People: Those who are effectually called and regenerated have a new heart and a new spirit created in them. They are additionally sanctified, actually and personally, by the power of Christ's death and resurrection and by his word and Spirit dwelling in them. The power of sin ruling over the whole body is destroyed, and the desires of the old self are more and more weakened and killed. At the same time the ability to practice true holiness, without which no one will see the Lord, is brought to life and strengthened by all the saving graces.

Leader: How is this sanctification developed in us?

People: This sanctification works in the whole person, but not completely or perfectly in this life. The old sinful nature retains some of its control in body, mind, and spirit. And so a continual and irreconcilable war goes on in every believer. The old nature tries to get its way in opposition to the Spirit, and the Spirit fights to assert its authority over the flesh.

Leader: How is our sanctification finally obtained?

People: Although the old nature temporarily wins battles in this warfare, the continual strengthening of the sanctifying Spirit of Christ enables the regenerate nature in each believer to overcome. And so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 335 "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 5:1-5*

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

SERMON:

“The Christian’s Love Life”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 642 “Be Thou My Vision” st. 1-2 (*lyrics on page 6*)

RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: God nourishes us in the sacraments, means of grace in which his deeds elicit our response. In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection, and to unite us to him and to each other.

All: We take this food gladly, announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life and that he shall come again to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.

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: 642 “Be Thou My Vision” st. 3-5

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BE THOU MY VISION

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art –
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
3. Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r:
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Groups meet tonight at 5:30pm.

SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

March 17	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
March 24	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
March 31	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 23 Ruthie Vander Wal

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

RCS PARENTS NIGHT OUT

RCS is hosting a Parent's Night Out this Friday, March 22 from 6-9 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child and includes pizza and activities.

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 20, 10:00am: Women's Bible Study (Administration Building)

Wednesday, March 20, 3:30pm: Catechism

Wednesday, March 20, 6:00pm: Women's Bible Study (Lori Turner's home)

Thursday, March 21: Prison Ministry Lunch

RIDGE HAVEN SCHOLARSHIP LUNCH

Please join us next Sunday, March 24 for a lasagna dinner immediately following service. The dinner will be prepared and served by the children attending Ridge Haven this summer. Donations of any amount will be accepted to defray the costs of transportation and camp fees.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LOCATION CHANGE

Due to the Ridge Haven luncheon next Sunday, March 24, the adult Sunday School class that normally meets in the Fellowship Hall will meet in the Sanctuary.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has provided snacks for catechism. I deeply appreciate the love and care that you show for the littlest of our congregation. Joann Williams

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, April 5, 6:30pm: RCS Trivium Trot 5k at the Buddy Powell Pavilion

Thursday, April 18, 6:00pm: Maundy Thursday service

Saturday, April 20: Family Easter Celebration

Thursday, April 25: Spirit Night at Pyro's Pizza (Ridge Haven fundraiser)

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 - led by elders

MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Adult Class - *Radical* by David Platt - discussion led by Gene Martin

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

March 17: Sarah Vander Wal / Darla Cook / Heather & Ceilidh Crawford / Kathy Gilbert
March 24: Michelle Moss / Heather Henson / Meg Sigmon & Caleigh Henson / James Urban

MARCH DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacon: Dusty Sheppard
Clean Up: Tom Arnold

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2019:

Operating Income:	\$57,618.12
Operating Expense*:	\$61,788.74
Net Income:	(\$4,170.62)
Designated gifts:	\$5,560.00
Building loan balance:	\$853,456.21

*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment