

Mercy sweetens all God's other attributes. God's holiness without mercy, and his justice without mercy were terrible. When the water was bitter, and Israel could not drink, Moses cast a tree into the waters, and then they were made sweet. How bitter and dreadful were the other attributes of God, did not mercy sweeten them! Mercy sets God's power on work to help us; it makes his justice become our friend; it shall avenge our quarrels. God's mercy is one of the most orient pearls of his crown; it makes his Godhead appear amiable and lovely.

Thomas Watson

No man would find it difficult to die who died every day.

C. H. Spurgeon

Death is an outrage, an illegitimate boundary. It is nasty and brutish. But the captain of our salvation has burst through that boundary and come out on the other side. He is risen from the grave. And in His resurrection we see that, though we live in a vale of tears and agony here and now, where death seems to hold all the trump cards, there is a day most certainly coming when we know that we too, and all the loved ones who have gone before us in Christ, will rise to be with Christ. His death was agonizing but it could not hold Him. Ours will no doubt be terrible and traumatic. But because of Christ, death will not hold us either.

Carl Trueman

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 1, 2020 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### First 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

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 148*

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

All: **Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!**  
**Praise him you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

Pastor: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!  
Young men and maidens together, and men and children!

All: **Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;**  
**his majesty is above earth and heaven.**

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Come, let us worship.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: 110** “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah”

### 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: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: The psalmist testifies: *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed are those against whom the LORD counts no iniquity...I acknowledged my sin to you and I did not cover my iniquity; I said "I will confess my transgression to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.* Let us confess our sins to God who is faithful to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

All: **Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: from 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

Pastor: Hear the good news: *This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and live to righteousness.* Through faith in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 254 "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

*The Heidelberg Catechism*, Question and Answer #1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 332 “Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove”

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Genesis 25:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. <sup>2</sup>She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. <sup>3</sup>Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. <sup>4</sup>The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah. <sup>5</sup>Abraham gave all he had to Isaac. <sup>6</sup>But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.

<sup>7</sup>These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years. <sup>8</sup>Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. <sup>9</sup>Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre, <sup>10</sup>the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife. <sup>11</sup>After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.

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

**SERMON:**                                 “Dying Well”                                 Rev. Nathan Hilton

# COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** 542 “Who Are These like Stars Appearing”

## **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:** 700 “Come, We That Love the Lord”

## **BENEDICTION**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 4 Peggy Drinkard  
March 6 David Barnes  
March 6 Claire Belson

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

## 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.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Attention ladies! Two opportunities to participate in small group Bible study will be starting soon. This Wednesday, March 4, at 10:00am you are welcome to join a study through the book *Union with Christ* by Rankin Wilbourne. Books are available in the church office (a donation of \$13 would cover the cost of the book). If you are able, please read the introduction and Chapter 1 before the first meeting. If you are interested in an evening study, contact Katharine Bedsole.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30pm: Session & Diaconate Meeting  
Saturday, March 28: Spring Work Day  
Sunday, March 29: Ridge Haven Fundraiser Lunch  
Sunday, March 29: Deacon's Fund Offering

# 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 1: Kristina Patridge / Darla Cook / Lisa Kidder & Gabe Henson / David Barnes  
March 8: Michelle Moss / Lorrie Pate / Meg Sigmon & Vielyana Kim / Calvin Kim

## 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