

## REFLECTIONS

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For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

from *The Letter to the Hebrews*, 12:18-24

Adam and Eve..... are – us. We are convinced, as we hear the story, that we would have done exactly what they did, for the same reasons, and that we would have hid ourselves afterwards, and pretended that we knew nothing about it, and tried to put the blame on someone else, just as they did. We therefore receive God's judgment upon our actions, and we make our "solitary way," in Milton's terms, through this world as they did, utterly vulnerable to sorrow, sickness, futility, pain and death, protected from the consequences of our disobedience only by the mercy of the Creator God, who, in spite of everything, has continued to protect us from total destruction.

Fleming Rutledge

from *And God Spoke to Abraham: Preaching from the Old Testament*

The bodily resurrection of Christ not only signifies God's victory over sin and death but also declares that nature of that victory. It is total, comprehensive; so comprehensive that it claims that history is moving toward nothing less than a fully restored and glorified universe.

Michael Williams

As one sees the apparent defeat of the right, and the triumphing of might and the strong ... it seems as though Satan were getting the better of the conflict. But as one looks above, instead of around, there is plainly visible to the eye of faith a Throne ... This then is our confidence—God is on the Throne.

A. W. Pink

from *The Sovereignty of God*

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 21, 2021 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton  
Tindol Pate, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers  
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

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### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 96*

Pastor: Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

People: **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

Pastor: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth!  
Come, let us worship!

## HYMN: 448 "We Have Heard the Joyful Sound"

We have heard the joyful sound: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Spread the tidings all around: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Bear the news to ev'ry land, climb the steeps and cross the waves;  
 onward! 'tis our Lord's command; Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Waft it on the rolling tide: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Tell to sinners far and wide: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Sing, ye islands of the sea; echo back, ye ocean caves;  
 earth shall keep her jubilee: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Sing above the battle strife, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 By his death and endless life, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Sing it softly through the gloom, when the heart for mercy craves;  
 sing in triumph o'er the tomb – Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Give the winds a mighty voice, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Let the nations now rejoice – Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Shout salvation full and free, highest hills and deepest caves;  
 this our song of victory – Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

## 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: *Matthew 19:16-22*

<sup>16</sup>And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” <sup>17</sup>And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” <sup>18</sup>He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, <sup>19</sup>Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>20</sup>The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup>When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections often turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Dear Lord, have mercy on us. Cause us to order our lives by your holy Word. Give us the desire to make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus so that we may be a light to others for your glory. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Psalm 103:11-12*

Pastor: Our redemption is assured through Jesus. This is the good news, the Gospel. The Psalmist tells us that: “For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.” Through Jesus Christ alone, we have received grace and are at peace with God. May His peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

HYMN: 648 “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
 for thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
 My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;  
 if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou has first loved me,  
 and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree,  
 I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;  
 if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death;  
 and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;  
 and say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:  
 if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
 I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
 I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
 if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

## OFFERING

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

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

From *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Questions and Answers 28, 29 and 30

Leader: In what does Christ's exaltation consist?

People: **Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day; in ascending into heaven; in sitting at the right hand of God the Father; and in coming to judge the world at the last day.**

Leader: How are we made to share in the redemption purchased by Christ?

People: **We are made to share in the redemption purchased by Christ by the effective application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.**

Leader: How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

People: **The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us that unites us to Christ in our effectual calling.**

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.  
Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 335 “Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would gracious be;  
and with words that help and heal would thy life in mine reveal;  
and with actions bold and meek would for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would truthful be;  
and with wisdom kind and clear let thy life in mine appear;  
and with actions brotherly speak my Lord’s sincerity.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would mighty be;  
mighty so as to prevail where unaided man must fail;  
ever by a mighty hope pressing on and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would holy be;  
separate from sin, I would choose and cherish all things good,  
and whatever I can be, give to him who gave me thee!

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Isaiah 6:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

<sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

<sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

<sup>8</sup>And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

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

SERMON:           “The King is dead. Long live the KING!”

Rev. Mitch Haubert



# COMMUNION

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HYMN: 100 “Holy, Holy, Holy!” st. 1-2

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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

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

Pastor: The gifts of God 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.*

# BENEDICTION

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HYMN: 100 “Holy, Holy, Holy!” st. 3-4

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee  
perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## BENEDICTION

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

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

March 23 Ruthie Vander Wal  
March 27 Linda Graham

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

## SUNDAY SCHOOL RELAUNCH CELEBRATION!

On Palm Sunday, March 28, everyone is invited to attend a church wide fellowship between the two morning services to celebrate the restart of Sunday School. We will begin the celebration at 10 a.m. and there will be food, drinks, time for visiting with one another and activities for the kids. Please check your email announcements for a link to sign up and help with food. Sunday School classes will begin the following week (Easter Sunday). Hope to see you all there!

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Next Sunday, March 28, the second morning worship service and livestream will begin at 11:00am. The 8:30am service will remain the same. This change is to accommodate the start of Sunday School.

## WINGS OF GRACE: FOOD DRIVE AND EASTER BASKETS

Riverwood's children will be filling Easter baskets for families at Wings of Grace. We have baskets, grass and toys from last year. We NEED bags of candy and other snacks to put in the baskets. Riverwood is also collecting food for Wings of Grace between now and Palm Sunday (March 28). Suggested items include: canned goods, crackers, peanut butter, pop tarts, oatmeal packets, pasta, spaghetti noodles, rice, and macaroni and cheese. A box will be in the narthex of the Sanctuary to collect Easter basket and food drive donations through Sunday, March 28. You may also bring donations to the church office.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

On Thursday, April 1, at 6:00pm, Riverwood Church will worship at our traditional Maundy Thursday Communion service. The service remembers the night the Lord was betrayed and met with His disciples and instituted Holy Communion. Join us in worship as we remember and anticipate the great celebration of Easter and the Resurrection.

## CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION

Children ages 4-12 are invited to join us on Saturday, April 3, from 1:00-3:00pm for an afternoon of crafts, music, the Easter story, an Egg Hunt and other fun. To help plan for supplies and helpers, please RSVP to Joann Williams (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org). We are asking each child to bring 12 candy-filled plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, April 4, 6:30am: Easter sunrise service

July 5-8: Vacation Bible School

## CONDOLENCES

-To Jimmy and Carolyn Hopper on the death of their son-in-law, Clarke Todd

-To Bruce DeHaan on the death of his uncle, Don Estelle

## DO YOU LIKE PLANTS?

We need help watering plants around the church property both inside and on the grounds. No previous experience required and brown thumbs are welcome! Contact Meg Sigmon for details: 205-535-8608 or megsigmon17@gmail.com.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Through February 2021*

Operating Income:	\$62,057.71
Operating Expense*:	\$61,912.01
Net Income:	\$145.70
Designated gifts:	\$4,171.00
Building loan balance:	\$698,342.70

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*