

You princes of the earth, give ear, there is one who claims to be numbered with you. It is Jesus, the Son of David, the King of the Jews. Room for Him, you emperors, room for Him! Room for the man who was born in a manger! Room for the man whose disciples were fishermen! Room for Him whose garment was that of a peasant, without seam, woven from the top throughout! He wears no crown except the crown of thorns, yet He is more royal than you. About His loins He wears no purple, yet He is far more imperial than you. Upon His feet there are no silver sandals decked with pearls, yet He is more glorious than you. Room for Him, room for Him! Hosanna! Hosanna! Let Him be proclaimed again a King! A King! A King! Let Him value His place upon His throne, high above the kings of the earth. This is what He then did, He proclaimed Himself a King.

Charles H. Spurgeon

If Jesus is king, we must accept him as he comes to us in this age. While Jesus will come on a war horse on the last day, until then he comes gently, on a donkey. He saves not by slaying his foes, but by dying for them.

Dan Doriani

As we arrive at Jerusalem with Jesus [on Palm Sunday], the question presses upon us. Are we going along for the trip in the hope that Jesus will fulfill some of our hopes and desires? Are we ready to sing a psalm of praise, but only as long as Jesus seems to be doing what we want? The long and dusty pilgrim way of our lives gives most of us plenty of time to sort out our motives for following Jesus in the first place. Are we ready not only to spread our cloaks on the road in front of him, to do the showy and flamboyant thing, but also to follow him into trouble, controversy, trial and death?

N. T. Wright

from *Luke for Everyone*

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 28, 2021 • 8:30 & 11:00 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Palm Sunday

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Jimmy Hopper
Lorrie Pate, piano

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers
Linda Graham, 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 86*

Pastor: All the nations you have made shall come and worship before the you,
O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

**All: For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.**

Pastor: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart that I may fear your name.

**All: I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.**

Pastor: Great is the steadfast love of the Lord, our God.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 115 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing
 alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
 O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear,
 alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest man both warmth and light,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
 O sing ye, alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
 O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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: *Hosea 6:1-6*

¹“Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. ²After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.” ⁴What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. ⁵Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. ⁶For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we come to you in prayer and worship knowing that you first loved and came to us. Each time we stray and then return to you, we are reminded that you have already come to us in loving mercy. Where your love is generous, like the spring rains that water the earth, our love for you is like dew that quickly evaporates. Please forgive us for our fickle hearts and shallow devotion. Holy Spirit, show us the depth of our sinfulness and enable us to truly repent. Please forgive us for being so slow to repent. Remind us what storehouse of eternal blessings are ours in Jesus Christ and strengthen our weak knees so we will run to him. Have mercy on us. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Philippians 2 & Ephesians 5*

Pastor: Turn your eyes from your sin and consider the humility and love of Jesus Christ. Though he was in the form of God, he emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

All: **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Pastor: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

All: **Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: “Jesus Is Lord”

“Jesus is Lord” – the cry that echoes through creation;
Resplendent pow’r, eternal Word, our Rock.
The Son of God, the King whose glory fills the heavens,
Yet bids us come to taste this Living Bread.

“Jesus is Lord” – whose voice sustains the stars and planets,
Yet in His wisdom laid aside His crown.
Jesus the Man, who washed our feet, who bore our suff’ring,
Became a curse to bring salvation’s plan.

“Jesus is Lord” – the tomb is gloriously empty!
Not even death could crush this King of Love!
The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we’re forgiven,
And we can run into the arms of God.

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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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 23-26

- Leader: What offices does Christ execute as our redeemer?
People: **Christ, as our redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.**
- Leader: How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?
People: **Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.**
- Leader: How does Christ execute the office of a priest?
People: **Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.**
- Leader: How does Christ execute the office of a king?
People: **Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.**

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: “Holy Spirit”

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul;
Bring the presence of the Risen Lord, to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for Your purity; Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within; may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev’ry sin in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least; gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, giving life to all that God has made.
Show Your power once again on earth, cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

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

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 21:1-17*

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

¹²And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹³He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

¹⁴And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant, ¹⁶and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,

‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise?’”

¹⁷And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

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

SERMON: “Behold your King!”

Rev. Jeff Pate

Behold the humility of your King.

Behold the zeal of your King.

Behold the compassion of your King.

Behold the suitable response to your King.

COMMUNION

HYMN: 198 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!” st. 1-3

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee,
his chariot is humility,
his kingly crown is holiness,
his scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King in triumph comes!

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

HYMN: 198 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!” st. 4-6

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav’n’s employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

March 28 Tammy Bell
March 28 Vielyana Kim
March 31 George Norris

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group meet tonight from 5:30-7:00pm.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated for workbooks for the Jumpstart prison ministry. All needed funds were raised, and the workbooks have been printed and delivered!

WEEKLY EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Riverwood sends out an announcement email every Tuesday. If you are not currently receiving these emails and would like to, please email Sarah at the church office (secretary@riverwoodchurch.org) or fill out the information connection in your bulletin and drop it in the offering plate.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

This 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION

Children ages 4-12 are invited to join us this 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.

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 31, 10:00am: Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, March 31, 3:30pm: Catechism

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS NEXT WEEK

Sunday School classes for all ages will begin next Sunday, April 4 at 10:00am. Worship services will be at 8:30am and 11:00am. The 11:00am service will also be available to stream on the church website.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Since that first Easter morning, Christians have gathered at daybreak on Easter Sunday to recount the wonder of the empty tomb. We will gather on the church property next Sunday at 6:30am to sing, pray, listen, and rejoice as we celebrate our Savior's victory over death.

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*