

Paul doesn't see...hymns and songs as simply decorative, a pleasant aural embroidery around Christian faith and practice. Singing, whether aloud or in your heart, was, he thought, an excellent way of actually practicing the faith.

T. E. Wright

The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service. The greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the lost and helpless.

Billy Graham

What will matter is our relationship to the Lord Jesus, individually and then corporately, at this existential moment. What counts, as men look upon us individually and corporately, is whether we are exhibiting God and his character *now*. The Christian position is not static but it is living.

Francis Schaeffer  
from *The God Who is There*

There can not be a greater unfaithfulness to God than to desire to be *nothing* at all....to desire to be out of the world rather than to glorify Him by thy patience in it.

John Donne  
from a sermon, Spring 1618

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 31, 2019 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Fourth 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

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### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 147*

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

All: For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Pastor: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

All: Great is our lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.

Pastor: The Lord lifts up the humble;

All: he casts the wicked to the ground.

Pastor: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving!  
Come, let us worship.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: 125** “Let All Things Now Living”

### 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: *Proverbs 2:1-15*

<sup>1</sup>My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, <sup>2</sup>making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; <sup>3</sup>yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, <sup>4</sup>if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, <sup>5</sup>then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. <sup>6</sup>For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; <sup>7</sup>he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, <sup>8</sup>guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. <sup>9</sup>Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; <sup>10</sup>for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; <sup>11</sup>discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, <sup>12</sup>delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, <sup>13</sup>who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, <sup>14</sup>who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, <sup>15</sup>men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we come before You again wounded, distraught and without excuse, to once more confess our sins. We come because of things we did, of things we should do but didn't, of things we've permitted without complaint, even while knowing that we should raise our voices in protest. We admit, we confess, that we are without wisdom. We admit, we confess, that we are fallen, and that we are unable, and even unwilling, to follow You as we should. Give us, O Lord, that holy wisdom of exceeding great richness. Give us that holy fear of You, O Lord, that we may be wise beyond measure and walk in Your paths. Grant this, O Lord, from your great mercy and unerring love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

Pastor: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.**

Pastor: His peace will come to each one whose trust is in the Lord.  
May the Peace of God be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 497 "I Need Thee, Precious Jesus"

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

### 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"

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: "Come, O Creator Spirit Blest" (*lyrics on page 6*)

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Ephesians 5:15-20*

<sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Pastor:** This is God's Holy Word. Herein is wisdom.

**All:** All glory be to God.

**SERMON:** "The Way of Wisdom"

Rev. Jeff Pate

## COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** 605 "All the Way My Savior Leads Me"

**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:** 635 "How Good It Is to Thank the Lord"

**BENEDICTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

# COME, O CREATOR SPIRIT BLEST

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1. Come, O Creator Spirit blest, and in our hearts take up your rest;  
Spirit of grace, with heav'nly aid come to the souls whom you have made.
2. You are the Comforter, we cry, sent to the earth from God Most High,  
fountain of life and fire of love, and our anointing from above.
3. Bringing from heav'n our sev'nfold dow'r, sign of our God's right hand of pow'r,  
O blessed Spirit, promised long, your coming wakes the heart to song.
4. Make our dull minds with rapture glow, let human hearts with love o'erflow;  
and when our feeble flesh would fail, may your immortal strength prevail.
5. Far from our souls the foe repel, grant us in peace henceforth to dwell;  
ill shall not come, nor harm betide, if only you will be our guide.
6. Show us the Father, Holy One, help us to know th'eternal Son;  
Spirit divine, forevermore you will we trust and you adore.

## TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

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

### SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 31 | Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group |
| April 7  | Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group |
| April 14 | Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group |
| April 21 | No evening activities (Easter)                  |

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

March 31 George Norris  
April 1 Warren Moon  
April 4 Lundy Arnold

## DEACON'S FUND OFFERING

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our Deacons have an offering to replenish funds in an account used exclusively for mercy ministry needs. This fund has enabled our Diaconate to extend the kingdom of God to many within our community. This morning, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, April 3, 10:00am: Women's Bible Study (Administration Building)  
Wednesday, April 3, 3:30pm: Catechism  
Wednesday, April 3, 6:00pm: Women's Bible Study (Lori Turner's home)

## THANK YOU

The Ridge Haven campers would like to thank everyone who came and enjoyed the lasagna luncheon. Thank you for your donations, and please be in prayer for us during the week of camp. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and study of God's word.

## EASTER BASKETS FOR WINGS OF GRACE

During the Family Easter Celebration on April 20, the children will be filling 45 Easter baskets to be given to children at Wings of Grace. We have the baskets and the grass. We need candy, snack foods, and small toys/stuffed animals to place in the baskets. There is a box in the foyer of the Sanctuary to collect these items. You may also bring the items to Joann's office.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, April 5, 6:30pm: RCS Trivium Trot 5k at the Buddy Powell Pavilion  
Friday & Saturday, April 12-13: Youth Retreat  
Saturday, April 13: Church and School Work Day  
Saturday, April 13, 8:00am: RCS Plant Sale  
Thursday, April 18, 6:00pm: Maundy Thursday service  
Saturday, April 20, 9:00am-12:30pm: Family Easter Celebration  
Sunday, April 21: Easter Sunrise Service  
Thursday, April 25: Spirit Night at Pyro's Pizza (Ridge Haven fundraiser)

# 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: 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

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**NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:**

March 31: Michael Henry / Kristen Hancock / Brad & Rachel Yarbro / Daniel Kidder  
April 7: Lynn Tootle / Ginny Nippert / Gracen Miller & Eli Bell / Aaron Powers

**MARCH DEACON SCHEDULE:**

Head Deacon: Dusty Sheppard  
Clean Up: Tom Arnold

## FINANCIAL REPORT

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*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*