

In Nehemiah, we see a model of *valor*, and this valor exemplified by Nehemiah is a forward-looking Christlikeness. Nehemiah was a student of the Scriptures, a prayer warrior, one who loved God and His people, who sought the good of God's people at great risk to himself, who showed great courage and boldness protecting God's people and trusting God, and who lived for the high cause of God's kingdom.

James H. Hamilton, Jr.

The biblical meaning of community flows from the covenant. Covenant encapsulates all that is involved in our relationship with God, and it also gives definition to our relationships with one another.

Susan Hunt

All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

Westminster Confession of Faith, XXVI.1

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 8, 2020 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Second Sunday in Lent

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Allen Powers
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 127 & Ephesians 2*

Pastor: Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

All: **Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is building his church. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,

All: **Jesus Christ being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN OF PRAISE: 342 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

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: *1 Peter 2:1-8*

¹So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Gracious and loving heavenly Father, we bow before you. We come declaring your righteousness and humbly confess our sin. Have mercy on us for the malice and discontentment in our hearts that gives way to slander and envy. You are the God of truth, so we confess that we are often tempted to deceive and give way to hypocrisy in our lives. Please forgive us. Holy Spirit, give us appetites for the pure spiritual milk of the Word so that we would grow and mature in Christ. Lord Jesus, forgive us when we stumble over the gospel and fail to stand on the sure foundation that you have secured for us. Enable us to stand on the truth that our salvation is by God's grace, through faith in You, our Savior and Lord. We ask all this in your name, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from John 3:16-18a*

Pastor: Hear the good news! God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned. Through faith in the Son of God, your sins are forgiven and you no longer stand condemned.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 461 “Not What My Hands Have Done”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Nicene Creed*

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: “Hope of the World”

HOPE OF THE WORLD

1. Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
2. Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end her bitter strife.
3. Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.
4. Hope of the world, O Christ o'er death victorious,
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious:
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Nehemiah 3*

¹Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. ²And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

...
³¹After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, opposite the Muster Gate, and to the upper chamber of the corner. ³²And between the upper chamber of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants repaired.

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

SERMON: “The Labor of Love”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 585 “Take My Life, and Let It Be” st. 1-3

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: 585 “Take My Life, and Let It Be” st. 4-6

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 8 Katie Gill
March 8 Tindol Pate
March 12 Jake Sheppard

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

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.

SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, March 11, at 6:30pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Attention ladies! Two opportunities to participate in small group Bible study have recently begun. On Wednesdays 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 interested in an evening study, contact Katharine Bedsole.

SPRING WORK DAY

The Facilities Team is planning a church wide work day for March 28th, from 8 am to noon. There will be opportunities for adults, youth, and children to help clean up, spruce up and fix up our church property. Lunch will be provided.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR EASTER BASKETS

The children of Riverwood will be making 40 Easter baskets to be distributed by Wings of Grace to families in the area. Please be in prayer for this ministry. We also need toys, candy, and any other Easter basket items you would like to include. A box is in the narthex of the Sanctuary to collect these items.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, March 29: Ridge Haven Fundraiser Lunch
Sunday, March 29: Deacon's Fund Offering

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: 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

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

March 8: Michelle Moss / Lorrie Pate / Bruce DeHaan & Vielyana Kim / Calvin Kim
March 15: Aaron Powers / Heather Henson / Heather & Ceilidh Crawford / Quay Finch

MARCH DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacon: Dusty Sheppard
Clean Up: Tom Arnold

FINANCIAL REPORT

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*