

The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that fills all in all.

Westminster Confession of Faith, 25-1

The church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labors will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption. The creeping wilderness will soon take over that church that trusts in its own strength and forgets to watch and pray.

A. W. Tozer

Real satisfaction comes not in understanding God's motives, but in understanding His character, in trusting in His promises, and in leaning on Him and resting in Him as the Sovereign who knows what He is doing and does all things well.

Joni Eareckson Tada

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

May 23, 2021 • 8:30 & 11:00 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Day of Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin
David Bedsole, piano

11:00am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim
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 20*

Pastor: May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

All: **May we shout for joy over your salvation and in the name of our God set up our banners!**

Pastor: May the Lord fulfill all your petitions!

All: **Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.**

Pastor: Trusting in the name of the Lord our God, come, let us worship.

HYMN: 104 "We Lift Up as Our Shield God's Name"

We lift up as our shield God's name,
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same:
the Three in One and One in Three,
our Rock and Tower, God of Light,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word;
we claim the name of grace and might:
salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Immanuel, incarnate Lord,
from Mary's womb was given breath,
was baptized at the Jordan's ford,
and gave his life to conquer death.
He rose triumphant from the tomb,
was lifted to the Father's throne
to come on God's dread day of doom
and bring salvation for his own.

By faith we claim his grace today:
the pow'r of God to hold and lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay,
his ear to hearken to our need;
the wisdom of our God to teach,
his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the word of God to give us speech,
his heav'nly host to be our guard.

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: *Deuteronomy 10:12-22*

¹²“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? ¹⁴Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. ¹⁵Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. ¹⁶Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. ¹⁷For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. ²⁰You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. ²¹He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen. ²²Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Colossians 2:11-14*

Pastor: Through faith in Jesus Christ, you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. God has given you new life and through faith in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

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

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in,
when Christ, the mighty Maker, died for man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do.

OFFERING

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Colossians 1:15-20*

Leader: What do you believe concerning Jesus Christ?

All: I believe that: **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

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.

COMMITMENT

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 330 “Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness”

Holy Ghost, dispel our sadness, pierce the clouds of sinful night;
come, O source of sweetest gladness, breathe your life and spread your light.

Loving Spirit, God of peace, great distributor of grace,
rest upon this congregation; hear, O hear our supplication.

From that height which knows no measure, as a gracious show’r descend;
bringing down the richest treasure man can wish or God can send.

Heav’nly Glory, shining down from the Father and the Son,
grant us your illumination; rest upon this congregation.

Come, O best of all donations God can give or we implore;
having your sweet consolations we need wish for nothing more.
Come with unction and with pow’r, on our souls your graces show’r;
author of the new creation, make our hearts your habitation.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Jude 1, 2*

¹Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

²May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

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

SERMON:

“Who’s Got Mail?”

Rev. Jeff Pate

Who is writing the letter?

A servant

A brother

Who is he writing to?

1. This letter is for those who are called.
2. Jude is writing to people who are beloved in God the Father.
3. This message within is for pilgrims who are kept for (and by!) Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION

HYMN: "Are You Weary, Are You Languid"

Are you weary, are you languid, are you sore distress'd?
"Come to me," says One, "and, coming, be at rest."
Has he marks to lead me to him, if he be my Guide?
"In his feet and hands are wound-prints, and his side."

Chorus:

Finding, foll'wing, keeping, struggling, is he sure to bless?
"Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs answer yes!"

Is there diadem, as Monarch, that his brow adorns?
"Yes, a crown, in very surety, but of thorns."
If I find him, if I follow, what his promise here?
"Many a sorrow, many a labor, many a tear."

If I still hold closely to him, what has he at last?
"Sorrow vanquished, labor ended, Jordan passed."
If I ask him to receive me, will he say me nay?
"Not till earth and not till heaven pass away."

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION: *Psalm 103:1-5; Revelation 5:12*

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

All: **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

Pastor: ...who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!**

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: 642 “Be Thou My Vision”

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art –
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tow’r:
raise thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

May 24 Nancy Allen
May 25 Rachael Drinkard
May 28 Carlie Clark

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club & Youth Group will meet tonight at 5:30pm. For our final meeting this spring, Kids Club and Youth will get together for games, a hot dog dinner, and worship. We are looking forward to having everyone there.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be July 6 - 9 from 9:00-11:30am. We need people to help with preparations (e.g. make props, etc.) and during the week of VBS (e.g. teach, music, games, etc.). There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex this morning or you can contact Joann (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

PRAYER FOR RIDGE HAVEN CAMPERS

Our campers leave next week Monday, May 31 at 6:00am and will return June 5. Please pray that they will have a fun time worshiping and learning about God; that they will enjoy great fellowship with others; and that they will be protected from injury. Please also pray for the drivers and safe travels to and from camp. The list of campers and drivers is below (a star indicates a first time camper).

Campers: Lundy Arnold, Emory Arnold, Peter Bell, Hansen Bobbit*, Brooks Glisson*, Hudson Glisson*, Jonathan Gomez*, Abigail Jones, Caleb Kim, Ava Grace Odom, Warren Pate, Thomas Vander Wal, and Ruthie Vander Wal*.

Drivers: Jeff & Lorrie Pate, Joann Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Next Sunday, May 30, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

CHANGE TO SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE COMING SOON

Beginning Sunday, June 6, our Sunday morning schedule will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. followed by corporate worship at 11 a.m. We will continue to provide the livestream for those who are ill or at heightened risk.

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS

If you are interested in joining Riverwood as a member or just want to find out more about our beliefs and practices, we will be offering a new member's class during the Sunday school hour starting on June 6. The class will last approximately 6 weeks and will meet in the conference room in the Administration building at 9:45 a.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

This Friday, May 28: Youth Camp Out
Friday, June 25: Kids Game Night
Saturday, July 24: Family Fun Day at Lake Lurleen

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2021

Operating Income:	\$144,284.97
Operating Expense*:	\$149,122.85
Net Income:	(\$4,837.88)
Designated gifts:	\$37,133.00
Building loan balance:	\$687,455.35

**Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*