

# REFLECTIONS

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Men would sooner believe that the gospel is from heaven, if they saw more such effects of it upon the hearts and lives of those who profess it. The world is better able to read the nature of religion in a man's life than in the Bible.

Richard Baxter  
*The Reformed Pastor*

If you don't believe that the gospel is the good news of God's action – the Father electing, the Son dying, the Spirit drawing – that conversion is only our response to God's giving us the grace-gifts of repentance and faith, and that evangelism is our simple, faithful, prayerful telling of this good news, then you will actually damage the evangelistic mission of the church by making false converts.

Mark Dever  
*The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*

The nature of Christ's salvation is woefully misrepresented by the present-day evangelist. He announces a Savior from hell rather than a Savior from sin. And that is why so many are fatally deceived, for there are multitudes who wish to escape the Lake of Fire who have no desire to be delivered from their carnality and worldliness.

A. W. Pink

We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first.

Oswald Smith

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 14, 2021 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Clay Staggs  
Joann Williams, 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 33*

Leader: Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

**All: Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;  
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!**

Leader: Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love.

**All: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

**Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.**

Leader: May the steadfast love of the Lord be upon us, even as we hope in him.  
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 97 “We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator”

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
 in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
 We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
 we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;  
 through life’s storm and tempest our Guide you have been.  
 When perils o’ertake us, escape you will make us,  
 and with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,  
 to you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.  
 Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us;  
 to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

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: *Deuteronomy 8:11-20*

<sup>11</sup>“Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, <sup>12</sup>lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, <sup>16</sup>who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. <sup>17</sup>Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ <sup>18</sup>You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. <sup>19</sup>And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. <sup>20</sup>Like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God.”

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

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All:                Almighty, generous, and merciful God, we praise you as the Lord and giver of life. But we also confess that we often forget you by ignoring your Word and disobeying your commands. We admit that though you have given us countless, good gifts and provided for us abundantly, we are quick to boast in ourselves and fail to give you thanks. In our pride and foolishness, we even value our possessions and wealth more than people made in your image, whom you have called us to love. Please have mercy on us. Forgive us for our sins and enable us, by your Holy Spirit, to honor you with our lives even as we love our neighbors in word and deed. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

# CONFESSION

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## WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 5*

Pastor: Lift your heads because the message of salvation is for poor, wounded, weary, and undeserving sinners who look in faith to Jesus Christ. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. By God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and reconciled to God. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

## HYMN: 455 "And Can It Be That I Should Gain" st. 1-3

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

### *Chorus:*

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis myst'ry all! Th'Immortal dies; who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above (so free, so infinite his grace!),  
humbled himself (so great his love!), and bled for all his chosen race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.

# COMMITMENT

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

### DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus  
Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever  
believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.  
(John 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present  
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor  
anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from  
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

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: 597 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be giv’n by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship and are freed.



# COMMUNION

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HYMN: 455 “And Can It Be That I Should Gain” st. 4, 5

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature’s night;  
thine eye diffused a quick’ning ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

*Chorus:*

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach th’eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Pastor: With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth,  
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us —  
even when we fell into sin.

**All: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

Pastor: Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole  
creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full  
of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

HYMN: 441 "Jesus Shall Reign"

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does his successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er his reigns;  
the pris'ner leaps to lose his chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
peculiar honors to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen!

## 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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## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

### DINNER ON THE GROUNDS & WE GIVE THANKS

After church next Sunday, November 21, plan to join your Riverwood family for dinner on the grounds. Each family is asked to bring a stand alone meal that is enough for your family plus extra for sharing. We encourage the use of coolers to keep things cold or hot as refrigerator space is very limited and too many crock pots blow our circuit breakers! The church will provide plates, cups, cutlery, napkins, and ice. Join us as we break bread together. Riverwood's annual We Give Thanks service will directly follow the meal in the Fellowship Hall.

### CHRISTMAS CRAFT & FUN DAY

Christmas Craft and Fun Day will be held Saturday, December 4 from 10:00am-1:00pm. This day is for children from 4 - 12 years old. We will have crafts, games, the Christmas story, music, and great food. Children, please invite a friend to spend the morning with us. Please prayerfully consider participating in this program by: (1) providing food, (2) helping with crafts, or (3) helping with any of the tasks that need to be completed prior to the 4th. For more information, contact Joann Williams ([jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org](mailto:jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org)).

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, December 3: Riverwood Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 4, 10:00am-1:00pm: Christmas Craft and Fun Day  
Wednesday, December 15: Angel Tree gifts due  
Friday, December 24, 6:00pm: Christmas Eve Communion Service

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HYGIENE PACKS FOR JUMPSTART MINISTRY

We need the following for 216 inmates: white washcloths, white socks, soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. We can also use monetary gifts. We will put them together on Friday, December 10 @ 5:30, so we need to collect these by December 3. There will be a box for collection in the Narthex. Questions? See Bruce or Mickey DeHaan.

## ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree will be in the foyer of the sanctuary beginning next Sunday, November 21. What is Angel Tree? It is a ministry to children of incarcerated parents. Through this program, we as a church can embrace children in our community by providing them with a Christmas gift, given in love, on behalf of their parent. Each gift presents an opportunity to share the love and hope of Christ. Please prayerfully consider participating in this program by doing any of the following: (1) purchasing presents (one clothing and one toy item) for a child from the tree, (2) providing non-perishable food items, and (3) helping deliver presents on December 20 or 21. For more information, contact Joann Williams (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org).

## HELP NEEDED: PREPARATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS CRAFT & FUN DAY

Do you like doing crafts? There are a number of crafts that need to have pre-work done for Christmas Craft and Fun Day. This includes cutting, gluing, and even some painting. If you have some time and would like to help, please contact Joann (jwilliams@riverwoodchurch.org)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Through October 2021*

Operating Income:	\$350,530.68
Operating Expense*:	\$390,261.90
Net Income:	(\$39,731.22)
Designated gifts:	\$69,028.15
Building loan balance:	\$654,773.53

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*