

REFLECTIONS

Union with Christ means we are part of a larger family, a broader mission, a longer story, a bigger world, and a deeper love.

Rankin Wilbourne

This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.

Martin Luther

Christians travel the same ground that everyone else walks on, breathe the same air, drink the same water, shop in the same stores, read the same newspapers, are citizens under the same governments, pay the same prices for groceries and gasoline, fear the same dangers, are subject to the same pressures, get the same distresses, are buried in the same ground. The difference is that each step we walk, each breath we breathe, we know we are preserved by God, we know we are accompanied by God, we know we are ruled by God, and therefore no matter what doubts we endure or what accidents we experience, the Lord will preserve us from evil, he will keep our life.

Eugene H. Peterson

from A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 21, 2021 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Clay Staggs
Ginny Coleman, 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 Hebrews 10*

- Pastor: We gather today to worship in the name of Jesus Christ. Since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God,
- All: **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**
- Pastor: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.
- All: **And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as we see the Day drawing near.**
- Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 358 "For All the Saints"

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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: *Psalm 25:1-11*

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ²O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. ⁶Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! ⁸Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. ¹¹For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN: *adapted from Psalm 51*

All: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Turn not your face from us and teach us wisdom. Create a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! In Jesus Name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 3*

Pastor: Hear the good news! The righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 172 “Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior’s name!
He has hushed the law’s loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Sinai’s flame:
he has washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
he has washed us with his blood, he presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation threaten hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqueror’s crown:
he who washed us with his blood soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy’s store;
when through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:
he who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
“You have washed us with your blood; you are worthy, Lamb of God!”

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: *Westminster Confession of Faith* 14.1,2

All: The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word, by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.

By this faith, a Christian believes to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acts differently upon that which each particular passage thereof contains; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

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: 482 “Come unto Me, Ye Weary”

“Come unto me, ye weary, and I will give you rest.”
O blessed voice of Jesus which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace, and peace,
of joy that hath no ending, of love which cannot cease.

“Come unto me, dear children, and I will give you light.”
O loving voice of Jesus which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness, and we had lost our way;
but morning brings us gladness, and songs the break of day.

“Come unto me, ye fainting, and I will give you life.”
O peaceful voice of Jesus which comes to end our strife!
The foe is stern and eager, the fight is fierce and long;
but thou hast made us mighty, and stronger than the strong.

“And whosoever cometh I will not cast him out.”
O patient love of Jesus which drives away our doubt;
which calls us, very sinners, unworthy though we be
of love so free and boundless, to come, dear Lord, to thee!

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:15

¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

¹For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

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

SERMON: “The Extraordinary, Temporal Life of a Disciple: *Sola Fide*” Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 98 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
 who from our mothers’ arms, hath blessed us on our way
 with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven –
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav’n adore;
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

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

BENEDICTION

HYMN: 518 "Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground"

Christ, of all my hopes the ground, Christ, the spring of all my joy,
still in you may I be found, still for you my pow'rs employ,
still for you my pow'rs employ.

Let your love my heart inflame; keep your fear before my sight;
be your praise my highest aim; be your smile my chief delight,
be your smile my chief delight.

Fountain of o'erflowing grace, freely from your fulness give;
till I close my earthly race, may I prove it "Christ to live,"
may I prove it "Christ to live."

Firmly trusting in your blood, nothing shall my heart confound;
safely I shall pass the flood, safely reach Immanuel's ground,
safely reach Immanuel's ground.

Thus, O thus, an entrance give to the land of cloudless sky;
having known it "Christ to live," let me know it "gain to die,"
let me know it "gain to die."

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

November 21 Jay Finch

November 21 Alan Manning

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS & WE GIVE THANKS

After church this morning, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for dinner on the grounds. Riverwood's annual We Give Thanks service will directly follow the meal. Join us as we give thanks and break bread together.

NO YOUTH GROUP OR COVENANT KIDS CLUB

Due to the We Give Thanks service, Youth Group and Covenant Kids Club will NOT meet tonight. They will each resume next Sunday, November 28.

RCS: CALL FOR SUBSTITUTES

RCS is seeking substitute teachers for all grade levels. If you or someone you know might be interested, contact Addison Canevaro (mrcanevaro@riverwoodclassical.org) for more information.

ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is up in the foyer of the sanctuary. 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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 is a box for collection in the Narthex. Questions? See Bruce or Mickey DeHaan.

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).

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)

OFFICE HOURS: THANKSGIVING

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, church office hours will be intermittent this week. If you need immediate assistance, please feel free to contact your elder or deacon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, December 3: Riverwood Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 15: Angel Tree gifts due

Friday, December 24, 6:00pm: Christmas Eve Communion Service

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*