

No church can spread the gospel with any degree of integrity, let alone credibility, unless it has been visibly changed by the gospel it preaches. We need to look like what we are talking about. It is not enough to receive the gospel and pass it on; we must embody it in our common life of faith, love, joy, peace, righteousness and hope.

John Stott

Our Lord has many weak children in his family, many dull pupils in his school, many raw soldiers in his army, many lame sheep in his flock. Yet he bears with them all, and casts none away. Happy is that Christian who has learned to do likewise with his brethren.

J. C. Ryle

As the strongest faith may be shaken, so the weakest, where truth is, is so far rooted that it will prevail. Weakness with watchfulness will stand, when strength with too much confidence fails. Weakness, with acknowledgment of it, is the fittest seat and subject for God to perfect His strength in; for consciousness of our infirmities drives us out of ourselves to Him in whom our strength lies.

Richard Sibbes

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 4, 2018 • 11:00 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Bob Prince
David Bedsole, 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 25*

Pastor: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

All: O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.

Pastor: Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.

All: Make me know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Pastor: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

All: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Pastor: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Let us consider his wonderful ways and follow him.

Come, let us worship!

HYMN OF PRAISE: 75 “O Father, You Are Sovereign”

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 7:6-11*

⁶“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. ¹¹You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN: *based on Psalm 25:6-7*

All powerful and all holy Lord, we gather here today as weak and sinful people. We come confessing our thoughts, words and actions that have reflected our pride and worldly appetites instead of your glory. Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love. We confess that we have fallen many times and our sins are old, but your love is far older. Remember not the sins of our youth or the transgressions of this day. According to your steadfast love remember us for the sake of your goodness and the praise of your glory. In Christ's name, amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 8:31-34*

Pastor: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?

All: **It is God who justifies.**

Pastor: Who is to condemn?

All: **Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised— who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: “Before the Throne of God Above”

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

1. Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is “Love,” who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heav’n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart, no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2. When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the just, is satisfied,
to look on Him and pardon me, to look on Him and pardon me.

3. Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of Glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood!
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Savior and my God, with Christ my Savior and my God.

Words by Charitie Bancroft; Music by Vikki Cook
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COMMITMENT

PRAYER & OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

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.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 331 “Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit”

SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 3:1-13*

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

SERMON: “Using the Least to Declare the Most”

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 427 “Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands”

COMMUNION

RESPONSIVE READING:

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

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: 699 “Like a River Glorious”

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

Everyone is invited to return to the sanctuary tonight at 5:00pm for an evening vespers service. Covenant Kids Club is at 4:30pm. Youth Groups also meet tonight (Junior High at 4:30pm and Senior High at 5:40pm).

SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

November 4	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth / Vespers
November 11	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth
November 18	We Give Thanks service
November 25	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

November 6 Lori Turner

November 7 Jerry Douglas

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, November 7, 10:00am: Women's Bible Study (Admin Building)

Wednesday, November 7, 3:30pm: Children's Catechism

Wednesday, November 7, 6:00pm: Women's Bible Study (Lori Turner's home)

Thursday, November 8, 6:30pm: Women's Bible Study (Admin Building)

FLORIDA HURRICANE RELIEF

The Wings of Grace Center has been selected to be a collection/distribution center for hurricane victims. The following items are needed:

-Cleaning supplies (Clorox, Windex, Lysol, etc.)

-Hand sanitizing wipes

-Hygiene items (deodorant, shampoo, toilet paper, etc.)

Bill and Terri Hibbard (Wings of Grace director) will take these items to Florida on November 16. Please bring your donations by November 14 to the Wings of Grace Center or give to Bruce and Mickey DeHaan. Thank you!

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS & WE GIVE THANKS

After church on Sunday, November 18, 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.

THANK YOU FROM JOANN WILLIAMS

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Reformation Celebration. If I started listing you all, I would take the entire page and I would still leave someone out. Please know that I deeply appreciate everyone's assistance. THANK YOU!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

At Riverwood Presbyterian Church we have Sunday School at 9:45am 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 - *Beginnings: Studies in Genesis* led by Jimmy Hopper

MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Adult Class - *Radical* by David Platt - discussion led by Gene Martin

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

November 4: Caleigh Henson / Joanie Norris / Greg Vander Wal & Olivia Patridge / Meredith Patridge
November 11: Kristina Patridge / Heather Henson / Heather & Ceilidh Crawford / Quay Finch

NOVEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacons: Chris Locklear & Bruce DeHaan
Clean Up: Tom Arnold & Steve Patridge

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 2018:

Operating Income:	\$345,911.02
Operating Expense*:	\$372,328.86
Net Income:	(\$26,417.84)
Designated gifts:	\$34,754.12
Building loan balance:	\$890,158.43

*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment