

# REFLECTIONS

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We should therefore learn that the only good we have is what the Lord has given us gratuitously; that the only good we do is what He does in us; that it is not that we do nothing ourselves, but that we act only when we have been acted upon, in other words under the direction and influence of the Holy Spirit.

John Calvin

God's grace didn't get us going then leave us to get by on our works. Grace didn't just justify us in the past, it sustains us in the present and will deliver us in the future.

Randy Alcorn

Before we can learn the sufficiency of God's grace, we must learn the insufficiency of ourselves. The more we see our sinfulness, the more we appreciate grace in its basic meaning of God's undeserved favor. In a similar manner, the more we see our frailty, weakness, and dependence, the more we appreciate God's grace in its dimension of His divine assistance. Just as grace shines more brilliantly against the dark background of our sin, so it also shines more brilliantly against the background of our human weakness.

Jerry Bridges

“The cup of blessing that we bless,” Paul asks, “Is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?” We do not simply remember Christ or rededicate ourselves to Christ in this meal; rather Christ gives Himself to us as the Bread of Life. Beyond our powers to comprehend, the Spirit communicates Christ to us through these creaturely means of preaching and sacrament so that the ascended Head will not be without His body. These are all means that convey God's saving grace rather than methods of our own striving. Before we serve, we are served. Before we do anything, everything is done to and for us.

Michael Horton

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 7, 2021 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Dusty Sheppard  
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

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**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *from Psalm 84*

Pastor: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**All: My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Pastor: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

**All: For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favor and honor.**

Pastor: **No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.**  
O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!  
Come, let us worship!

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**HYMN: 376** “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty waits for him who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!

Lord, my God, I come before thee, come thou also unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, O enter thou, let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown;  
let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken, let me keep thy gift divine,  
howso'er temptations thicken; may thy Word still o'er me shine  
as my guiding star through life, as my comfort in my strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed;  
may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows, here is balm for all our woes.

**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: *Exodus 34:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. <sup>2</sup>Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. <sup>3</sup>No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain.” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. <sup>5</sup>The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. <sup>6</sup>The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” <sup>8</sup>And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. <sup>9</sup>And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

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

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## WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Ephesians 1:7-10*

- Pastor: Because of his sovereign and undeserved love, God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, the Beloved, and you have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of your trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
- All: **...which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ,**
- Pastor: ...this according to his plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Through faith in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven according to the riches of God's grace. The peace of Christ be with you all.
- All: **And also with you.**

## HYMN: 460 "Amazing Grace!"

Amazing grace! – how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

# 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: *from Romans 5:1-10*

Leader: Christians, as you have faith in Jesus Christ, what is your standing before God?

All: **We have been justified by faith and we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

Leader: As those who are now justified, at peace with God, and abiding in his grace, how do you view suffering in this life?

All: **We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

Leader: What was your condition when Christ first loved you?

All: **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. If while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.**

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: 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

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Titus 2:11-14*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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

SERMON:           “The Disciple's Curriculum and Tutor: *Sola Gratia*”           Rev. Jeff Pate

# COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** “What Grace Is Mine”

What grace is mine that He who dwells in endless light  
Called through the night to find my distant soul,  
And from His scars poured mercy that would plead for me,  
That I might live and in His name be known.

*Chorus:*

So I will go wherever He is calling me.  
I lose my life to find my life in Him.  
I give my all to gain the hope that never dies;  
I bow my heart, take up my cross, and follow Him.

What grace is mine to know His breath alive in me;  
Beneath His wings my weary soul may soar;  
All fear can flee, for death’s dark night is overcome;  
My Savior lives and reigns forevermore.

## **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

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HYMN: 465 “Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord”

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured,  
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

*Chorus:*

Grace, grace, God’s grace,  
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
grace, grace, God’s grace,  
grace that is greater than all our sin.

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold,  
threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
points to the Refuge, the mighty cross.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,  
what can avail to wash it away?  
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide;  
whiter than snow you may be today.

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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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

November 7 Jerry Douglas  
November 12 Kevin Skelton

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

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

## SESSION & DIACONATE MEETING

The elders and deacons will meet this Wednesday, November 10, at 6:30pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: KOREAN ROLLS

Who loves Asian food? Come make Korean rolls with us! This Saturday, November 13th from 10-12 at the home of Vielyana Kim (5010 Lakehurst Drive, Northport), the ladies of Riverwood will make our own Korean rolls and fellowship together. Even if you are not interested in making rolls but just want to visit with some great people, please come! We do ask that you RSVP to Lorrie Pate (205-771-0158) or Vielyana Kim (205-239-3101), and if you want to make a roll please pay \$5 cash to Vielyana or Venmo @johnkim07.

## JUMPSTART AL PRESENTATION NEXT WEEK

Over the past few years, Riverwood has had the privilege of helping support JumpStart AL, a faith-based transitional ministry at Bibb County Correctional Facility in Brent, AL. There will be a combined Sunday School next week (Nov. 14) to hear a presentation and update from JumpStart AL Executive Director, Rev. Mitch Haubert. Please come and join us as we hear about how God is transforming the lives of prisoners from the inside out.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SAV-A-LIFE IRON BOWL BANQUET

Sav-A-Life Tuscaloosa's Iron Bowl Banquet is on Monday, November 15, at 6pm at the Tuscaloosa River Market. If you are interested in attending, please contact Wayne Bell at (205) 526-9011 or wayne.h.bell4@gmail.com.

## DINNER ON THE GROUNDS & WE GIVE THANKS

After church on 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.

## 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).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, December 3: Riverwood Christmas Party (tentative)

Saturday, December 4, 10:00am-1:00pm: Christmas Craft and Fun Day

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

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Through October 2021*

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|------------------------|---------------|
| 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*