

# REFLECTIONS

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I am like the sick sheep that strays from the rest of the flock. Unless the Good Shepherd takes me on His shoulders and carries me back to His fold, my steps will falter, and in the very effort of rising, my feet will give way.

Jerome  
4th Century Theologian and Bible translator

Do not see the Father as one who is angry, but as one who is most kind and gentle. Let us see the Father as one who from eternity has always had kind thoughts towards us. The Father loses the company of his people because they are so ignorant of his love to them. His saints keep thinking only of his terrible majesty, severity and greatness, and so their hearts are not drawn to him in love. We must learn to think of his everlasting gentleness and compassion. Let our hearts and thoughts be filled with his love to us, even though many discouragements may lie in our way.

John Owen  
17th Century Puritan Theologian

Thou didst seek us when we sought Thee not; didst seek us indeed that we might seek Thee.

Augustine

I must confess that I never would have been saved if I could have helped it. As long as ever I could, I rebelled, and revolted, and struggled against God. When He would have me pray, I would not pray, and when He would have me listen to the sound of the ministry, I would not. And when I heard, and the tear rolled down my cheek, I wiped it away and defied Him to melt my soul. But long before I began with Christ, He began with me.

Charles H. Spurgeon

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 24, 2021 • 10:30 Worship Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

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

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### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 125*

Pastor: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

All: **As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the Lord surrounds his people,  
from this time forth and forever more.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

## HYMN: 363 "We Gather Together"

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing:  
sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning:  
thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation endure thro' tribulation:  
thy name be ever prais'd! O Lord, make us free!

## 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: *Ezekiel 34:1-6*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? <sup>3</sup>You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. <sup>4</sup>The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. <sup>5</sup>So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; <sup>6</sup>they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

All: Most holy and gracious Father, in your presence we confess our sins. In your great might, you have loved us sacrificially and faithfully. But in our weakness, our love for you costs us little and is inconsistent at best. Please forgive us for using positions of power and influence to serve ourselves instead of our neighbors. Have mercy on us for taking advantage of the weak for our own glory instead of seeking their good for your glory. Holy Spirit, continue to show us our sin, remind of our Savior's grace, and teach us to love as he loved. We ask this in name of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

# CONFESSION

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## WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Isaiah 53*

Pastor: Behold, I bring you good news! God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, the faithful servant who was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

**All: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Pastor: All who follow Jesus Christ by faith, have forgiveness in him and have been reconciled to God through him. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## HYMN: 246 “Man of Sorrows! What a Name”

Man of Sorrows! what a name for the Son of God, who came  
ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood,  
sealed my pardon with his blood: Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless, we; spotless Lamb of God was he;  
full atonement! can it be? Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Lifted up was he to die, “It is finished!” was his cry;  
now in heav’n exalted high: Hallelujah! what a Savior!

When he comes, our glorious King, all his ransomed home to bring,  
then anew this song we’ll sing: Hallelujah! what a Savior!

## 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:

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions and Answers 19-21*

Leader: What misery did the fall bring upon mankind?

People: **The fall brought upon mankind loss of communion with God, and his wrath and curse, so that we are justly liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to punishment in hell for ever.**

Leader: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?

People: **God, solely out of his love and mercy, from all eternity elected some to everlasting life, and entered into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer.**

Leader: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

People: **The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person for ever.**

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: 424 “Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless” st. 1-3

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless your chosen pilgrim flock  
with manna in the wilderness, with water from the rock.

Hungry and thirsty, faint and weak, as you when here below,  
our souls the joys celestial seek which from your sorrows flow.

We would not live by bread alone, but by that Word of grace,  
in strength of which we travel on to our abiding place.

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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SCRIPTURE: *Luke 15*

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.



# COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** 424 “Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless” st. 4-5

Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;  
Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.

There sup with us in love divine; your body and your blood,  
that living bread, that heav’nly wine, be our immortal food.

**RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** *adapted from the Belgic Confession, Article 35*

**Pastor:** Our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper to nourish and sustain those who are born again and ingrafted into his family: his church. Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread as the sacrament of his body and wine as the sacrament of his blood.

**People:** **Just as truly as we take and hold the sacraments in our hands and eat and drink it in our mouths, by which our life is then sustained, so truly we receive into our souls, for our spiritual life, the true body and true blood of Christ, our only Savior. We receive these by faith, which is the hand and mouth of our souls.**

**Pastor:** This banquet is a spiritual table at which Christ communicates himself to us with all his benefits.

**People:** **By use of this holy sacrament, we are moved to a fervent love of God and of our neighbors.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

# BENEDICTION

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HYMN: 457 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God:  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander - Lord, I feel it -  
prone to leave the God I love:  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

## 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

October 27	Warren Pate	October 29	Kristina Patridge
October 28	Robert Sheppard	October 30	Jimmy Hopper
October 29	C. J. Canevaro	October 30	Caleb Kim

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

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

## YOUTH GROUP & COVENANT KIDS CLUB

Youth Group and Covenant Kids Club meet tonight from 5:30-7:00pm.

## CHURCH-WIDE WORK DAY

A church-wide workday is scheduled for this Saturday, October 30, 8 am - 12 pm. We will be tackling various repairs and improvements from planting daffodils to repainting the railings outside the front of the sanctuary. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer of the sanctuary. Breakfast biscuits will be served upon arrival.

## REFORMATION CELEBRATION

*Sunday, October 31, 4:30pm*

Children and adults are welcome to dress up for the occasion. We ask for nothing macabre or scary. There is a box in the foyer of the sanctuary for candy to be distributed at each game. The games and crafts focus on the story of the Reformation. Games and crafts begin at 4:30. The chili judging will be at 5:30, followed by dinner and fellowship. Help is still needed! See your weekly announcement email for a detailed schedule and a link to sign up.

## 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.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Through September 2021*

Operating Income:	\$317,359.58
Operating Expense*:	\$354,073.73
Net Income:	(\$36,714.15)
Designated gifts:	\$62,261.15
Building loan balance:	\$660,304.84

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*