

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ...For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:7,11,12

Our parents understood very clearly that the principles they taught their children would have meager effect if they were not strongly fortified by the pattern of their own lives. "To give children good instruction and a bad example," wrote Archbishop Tillotson, "is but beckoning to them with the head to show them the way to heaven while we take them by the hand and lead them in the way to hell."

Elisabeth Elliot

*The Shaping of a Christian Home*

What we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Paul, the apostle

*2 Corinthians 4:5-7*

Religious charlatans have been common in every age and some people, forgetting that hypocrisy is the tribute which vice pays to virtue, conclude that everyone who is active in a religious cause is in it for the money or the prestige or some other ulterior consideration. There are cynics who cannot believe that public or private action, involving sacrifice of time, money, comfort and even reputation, is ever undertaken purely with a view to the well-being of others.

F. F. Bruce

*Commentary on 1 Thessalonians*

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 4, 2020 • 8:30 & 10:30 Services • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Robert Thornton  
Joann Williams, piano

10:30am

Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder John Kim  
Dr. 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 127 & Ephesians 2*

Pastor: Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.

**All: Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the watchman stays awake in vain.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is building his church. You are fellow citizens  
with the saints and members of the household of God,  
built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,

**All: Jesus Christ being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure,  
being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.**

Pastor: Church of Jesus Christ, come, let us worship.

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**HYMN: 342** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion’s help forever, and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city, dearly loved of God on high,  
in exultant jubilation pours perpetual melody;  
God the One in Three adoring in glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of hosts, today;  
with thy wonted loving-kindness hear thy people as they pray;  
and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls always.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants what they ask of thee to gain,  
what they gain from thee forever with the blessed to retain,  
and hereafter in thy glory evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,  
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One,  
One in might, and One in glory, while unending ages run.

**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:** *Proverbs 1:7-9*

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

<sup>8</sup>Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, <sup>9</sup>for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer as we humbly confess our sins. We admit that as children, we have often ignored the instructions and teaching of our parents. In our pride, we fool ourselves and choose to forsake the adornments of wisdom. We have not only done this with our parents, but also the spiritual leaders in our lives we choose to ignore or disregard. Please forgive us. As parents and leaders, we have failed to faithfully teach and lead those you have entrusted to our care. Have mercy on us for our negligent teaching and poor example. We admit that we all too often think we can find knowledge without fearing you. In doing so, we have despised wisdom and rejected your instruction. Please forgive us and help us. Give us attentive ears, open hearts, renewed minds, and adorn our lives with the garland of your grace. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** *John 3:16-18a*

Pastor: Hear the good news! God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned. Through faith in the Son of God, your sins are forgiven and you no longer stand condemned.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

# CONFESSION

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HYMN: “Amazing Love”

My Lord, what love is this  
that pays so dearly;  
That I, the guilty one,  
may go free?

*Chorus:*

Amazing love, O what sacrifice,  
The Son of God giv'n for me;  
My debt He pays and my death He dies,  
That I might live, that I might live.

And so they watched Him die,  
despised, rejected;  
But, O the blood He shed  
flowed for me.

*(Chorus)*

And now this love of Christ  
shall flow like rivers;  
Come wash your guilt away,  
live again.

*(Chorus)*

Words and music by Graham Kendrick  
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# COMMITMENT

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## OFFERING

*\*Tithes and offerings will be collected by deacons following the morning service as congregants leave the sanctuary.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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HYMN: 144 “Father of Mercies, in Your Word”

Father of mercies, in your Word what endless glory shines;  
forever be your name adorned for these celestial lines.

Here may the wretched sons of want exhaustless riches find;  
riches above what earth can grant and lasting as the mind.

Here the Redeemer’s welcome voice spreads heav’nly peace around;  
and life and everlasting joys attend the blissful sound.

O may these heav’nly pages be my ever-dear delight;  
and still new beauties may I see, and still increasing light.

Divine Instructor, gracious Lord, O be forever near;  
teach me to love your sacred Word, and view my Savior there.

SCRIPTURE: *1 Thessalonians 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. <sup>2</sup>But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. <sup>3</sup>For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. <sup>6</sup>Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. <sup>7</sup>But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. <sup>8</sup>So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. <sup>9</sup>For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup>You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. <sup>11</sup>For you know how, like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup>we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

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

SERMON: “In Defense of Gospel Ministry”

Rev. Jeff Pate

I. Sincere, bold ministry comes from a desire to please God.

A. Getting the message right...the gospel of God

B. A message boldly declared regardless of past or present circumstances

C. Freedom of speech that pleases and appeals

D. Beware of other malicious motivators

II. A love for the hearers shows up in humble, parental postures.

A. A difficult combination

B. Motherly tenderness

C. Fatherly exhortation

D. Living examples of divine transformation

E. Eyes straight ahead

# COMMUNION

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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.

## RESPONSIVE READING:

Pastor: With these words our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return in glory.

All: **In this supper God declares to us that our sins are completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the cross once for all.**

Pastor: He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who is bodily now in heaven at the right hand of the Father.

## 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.*

# BENEDICTION

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HYMN: 57 “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul”

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.  
Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;  
he shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses Israel’s God to be his aid;  
he is blessed whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God is stayed.  
Heav’n and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain;  
he delivers from oppression, righteousness he will maintain.

Food he daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning pris’ner free,  
raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eye to see.  
Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger he befriends,  
helps the fatherless and widow, judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.  
Over all God reigns forever, through all ages he is King;  
unto him, your God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.

## BENEDICTION

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

*Refrain:*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

4. 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 9      Diane Powers  
October 10     Leah Vander Wal

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

## COVENANT KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group meet tonight. Covenant Kids Club meets from 5:30-6:30pm behind the Fellowship Hall, and Youth Group meets from 5:30-7:00pm behind the Administration Building.

## PIER GROUPS

We want everyone in the church to have the opportunity to be involved in the study and application of God's Word with a group of other believers. Small group bible studies (Pier Groups) are forming for this fall. Some groups will meet in person and others will be online. Please go to the church's website ([riverwoodchurch.org](http://riverwoodchurch.org)) to sign up.

## REFORMATION CELEBRATION

This year's Reformation Celebration will be held **OUTSIDE** on Sunday, October 25 from 4:00-6:00. If there is rain, we will reschedule to November 1. Watch for this week's email announcement for more details regarding food and children's activities.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Through September 2020:*

Operating Income:	\$283,281.27
Operating Expense*:	\$311,112.42
Net Income:	(\$27,831.15)
Designated gifts:	\$69,174.43
Building loan balance:	\$737,268.31

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*