

Take your stand on the Rock of Ages. Let death, let the judgment come: the victory is Christ's and yours through Him.

D. L. Moody

The end is where we start from.

T. S. Eliot

Genesis 12:1-3 is pivotal in the book of Genesis... it declares the good news that, in spite of all that we have read in Genesis 1-11, it is God's ultimate purpose to bless humanity. And the story of how that blessing for all nations has come about occupies the rest of the Bible, with Christ as the central focus. Indeed the closing vision of the canon, with people of every tribe and nation and language worshiping the living God (Rev. 7:9-10), clearly echoes the promise of Genesis 12:3 and binds the whole story together.

C. T. Wright

As a bride adorned for her husband, goes forth of her bedchamber unto the marriage, so shall the saints go forth of their graves, unto the marriage of the Lamb . . . They had, while in this life, sometimes sung by faith the triumphant song over death and the grave, 'O death, where is your sting? O grave where is your victory?' But then they will sing the same, from sight and sense; the black band of doubts and fears, which frequently disturbed them, and disturbed their minds, is forever dispersed and driven away.

Thomas Boston

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 15, 2019 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Leader In Worship: Assisting Elder Bob Prince  
Nancy Allen, 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: *based on Psalm 110*

Pastor: The Lord says to my Lord:  
“Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

All: **The Lord will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying,  
“Rule in the midst of Your enemies!”**

Pastor: Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of Your power,  
in holy garments.

All: **The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of his  
wrath. He will execute judgment among the nations.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: 2 “O Worship the King”**

### 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 139:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, you have searched me and known me! <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. <sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. <sup>7</sup>Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, <sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. <sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," <sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

O Lord, we confess that nothing is hidden from you. In you, all things are known. We look at our hearts, our hearts of darkness, and we dread the light of your presence. You are too high, too wonderful, and too holy for us to contemplate. We confess our total inadequacy to ever stand before you in and of ourselves. We confess our inability to even desire repentance without being awakened by the power of your Holy Spirit. But through your grace we do come before you this day in repentance only through the power of your Spirit and only because of the glorious work of your Son. Jesus alone has given us the assurance that we can stand before you both now and forever. Create in us a heart that seeks repentance, that seeks you alone. Grant us your grace and your peace and make us strong to walk in your ways. In Jesus alone we pray. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 John 1 & 2*

Pastor: This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. I am writing these things to you that you might not sin.

All: **But, if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins.**

Pastor: In Christ alone, our sins are forgiven and we are at peace with God. The peace of Christ be with you today and every day.

People: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 305 "Arise, My Soul, Arise"

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Nicene Creed*

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 330 “Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness”

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Revelation 22:12-21*

<sup>12</sup>“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” <sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. <sup>15</sup>Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup>“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” <sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. <sup>18</sup>I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, <sup>19</sup>and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. <sup>20</sup>He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

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

SERMON:           “The God We Believe In: The King Who Will Return”           Rev. Jeff Pate

# COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** 615 “Come, Ye Disconsolate, Where’er Ye Languish”

**RESPONSIVE READING:**

**Pastor:** God nourishes us in the sacraments, means of grace in which his deeds elicit our response. In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection, and to unite us to him and to each other.

**All:** **We take this food gladly, announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life and that he shall come again to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.**

**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:** 320 “Rejoice, All Ye Believers”

**BENEDICTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

## TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

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**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

**COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP**

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group both meet tonight. Kids Club is in the fellowship hall from 5:30-7:00, and Youth Group meets in the barn from 5:30-7:30pm.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

September 17 Dusty Sheppard  
September 20 Nancy Zheng  
September 21 Steve Patridge

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study is relaunching this week on Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Administration Building. We will be doing a study by Nancy Guthrie called "Even Better than Eden." Study materials will be provided. A \$5 donation is suggested to cover printing costs, and please bring your own three-ring binder or folder. If you are interested in an evening study, please contact Katharine Bedsole.

## SERVICE TEAM LUNCHEON

Be sure to mark September 29th on your calendar. Following morning worship that day, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to eat and hear about an exciting opportunity at Riverwood. Service Teams have been formed to provide ways for us all to serve Christ and one another here at Riverwood and beyond. At the luncheon, leaders of each team will share goals and responsibilities of that respective team and there will be a time to answer questions you may have. Each family is asked to bring a 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.

## DEACON'S FUND OFFERING

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our Deacons have an offering to replenish funds in an account used exclusively for mercy ministry needs. This fund has enabled our Diaconate to extend the kingdom of God to many within our community. On Sunday, September 29, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

## OTHER EVENTS COMING SOON

Sunday, October 13: John Graham's 90th Birthday Celebration  
Sunday, October 27: Reformation Celebration

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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At Riverwood Presbyterian Church we have Sunday School at 9:30am 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: Lisa Kidder  
Grades 4-6: Ginny Nippert

## MEETING IN THE BARN:

Youth Class: Ben & Meg Sigmon

## MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Adult Class - *The Providence of God* by R. C. Sproul - led by elders

## MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Adult Class - *The Legacy Journey* by Dave Ramsey - led by Gene Martin

# MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

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## NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

September 15: Michael Henry / Heather Henson / Heather & Ceilidh Crawford / Quay Finch  
September 22: Sarah Vander Wal / Debbie Jones / Janalie Graham & Caleigh Henson / Kay Kirkley

## SEPTEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacon: Steve Patridge  
Clean Up: Greg Vander Wal

# FINANCIAL REPORT

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Through August 2019:

Operating Income:	\$273,109.46
Operating Expense*:	\$279,144.59
Net Income:	(\$6,035.13)
Designated gifts:	\$64,296.52
Building loan balance:	\$821,091.61

\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment