

The Church is the pilgrim people of God. It is on the move - hastening to the ends of the earth to beseech all men to be reconciled to God, and hastening to the end of time to meet its Lord who will gather all into one... it cannot be understood rightly except in a perspective which is at once missionary and eschatological.

Lesslie Newbegin  
from *The Household of God*

Chosen, redeemed, justified, and sanctified in Christ, we are made into "a holy nation"... vitally connected to the church's mission.

Michael Horton  
from *Pilgrim Theology*

For those in physical exile, for those suffering for their faith, for those despised and marginalized by the world around them, the knowledge that history is under God's control provides encouragement. However weak the Church appears to be, however many setbacks it faces, the end of history is already determined in Christ. This knowledge allows believers to taste here and now something of the delights of the end of time. Indeed, combined with the rich New Testament teaching on resurrection and on the fact that death is not the final word for those who live in Christ by faith, a strong doctrine of providence is not only a means of construing the metaphysical connection between God and his creation, but is also a source of personal strength, comfort, assurance, and hope for Reformed Christians.

Carl Truman  
from an article, "*A Church for Exiles*"

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 16, 2018 • 11:00 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Gene Martin  
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

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 98*

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
People: **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**  
Pastor: The Lord has made known his salvation;  
He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.  
People: **He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**  
Pastor: Come, let us worship!

**HYMN OF PRAISE: 16** “Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord”

### 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: *Jeremiah 29:10-14*

<sup>10</sup>“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, you have promised your people, over and over, that you have wonderful plans us. Your plans are for our welfare in this life and the future, even into eternity. We come confessing that we often are more concerned with our plans than yours. We spend our time trying to secure our own welfare, even at the expense of others. You have promised to be with us and to be known by all those who seek you with all their heart. We confess that we pursue personal pleasure more often than we seek to know you. Please forgive us. Remind us of your promises and help us to rest in them, and in you. We ask this in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Revelation 5*

Pastor: And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain...the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

All: **“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”**

Pastor: Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

All: **“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

HYMN: “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” (*lyrics on page 6*)

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

from *New City Catechism*, Questions and Answers 48 & 50

Leader: What is the Church?

All: God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

Leader: What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

All: Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

RESPONSE: 735 “Gloria Patri”

## PRAYER OF PETITION

HYMN: 469 “How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place” st. 1-4

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

SERMON:           “Resting in Christ: You’re Part of a Bigger Plan”           Rev. Jeff Pate

## COMMUNION

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HYMN:   469   “How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place” st. 5, 6

Pastor:       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.

People:       **In this supper God declares to us that our sins have been 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 with his very body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father, where he wants us to worship him.

—from *The Heidelberg Catechism*, Q&A's 75, 80

### 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:   439   “Christ Shall Have Dominion”

### BENEDICTION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

# WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR

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1. Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Chorus:

You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore;  
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;  
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way,  
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. (*Chorus*)

3. Almighty, Infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;  
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne,  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. (*Chorus*)

Words by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse; Music by Dawn Rodgers  
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## TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

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Covenant Kids Club and the Junior High Youth Group meet tonight at 4:30pm. Senior High Youth is at 5:40pm. Everyone is invited to the sanctuary tonight at 5:00pm for a vespers service (see detailed announcement on the next page).

### SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

September 16	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth / Vespers
September 23	Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth
September 30	Dinner on the Grounds / Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

September 17 Dusty Sheppard  
September 20 Nancy Zheng  
September 21 Steve Patridge  
September 22 Brad Yarbro

## SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS SERVICE

Beginning tonight, we will resume the Sunday evening service which includes prayer, reflections from God's word, and song. For the fall, we will meet in the sanctuary from 5-6 pm on the first and third Sunday evenings of each month.

## WOMEN'S BUNCO NIGHT

Ladies, mark your calendars for Bunco Night on Tuesday, September 25, at 6:30pm in the Administration Building. Please bring a snack to share!

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DINNER

Mission field comes to Riverwood!! This semester the International Student Dinner will be hosted at "The Barn" at Riverwood. Please help join the work of spreading the gospel by providing side dishes each week for this meal. Sign up using the link in your email announcements. Pray for deep conversations, genuine friendships, and openness to the gospel. Questions? Contact Lorrie Pate, 205-928-2133.

## DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

After church on Sunday, September 30, plan to join your Riverwood family for dinner on the grounds. 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 30, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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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: Jeff & Lorrie Pate

## MEETING UPSTAIRS:

Grades 1-3: Monica Urban  
Grades 4-6: Tom & Elena Arnold

## MEETING IN THE BARN:

Youth Class led by Brad & Rachel Yarbro

## 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

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## NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

September 16: Lora Locklear / Joanie Norris / Lorrie Pate & Daniel Page / Sumlin Pate  
September 23: Lynn Tootle / Lisa Kidder / Gracen Miller & Eli Bell / Daniel Kidder

## SEPTEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacons: Steve Patridge & Dusty Sheppard  
Clean Up: Chris Locklear & Bruce DeHaan

# FINANCIAL REPORT

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*Through August 2018:*

Operating Income:	\$280,394.75
Operating Expense*:	\$293,364.55
Net Income:	(\$12,969.80)
Designated gifts:	\$23,271.00
Building loan balance:	\$901,738.08

*\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment*