

# REFLECTIONS

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Most people don't understand mercy because they think they're too good to deserve any.  
Flannery O'Connor

The worth and excellency of a soul is to be measured by the object of its love.  
Henry Scougal

God does not owe this grace to anyone. For what could God owe to those who have nothing to give that can be paid back? Indeed, what could God owe to those who have nothing of their own to give but sin and falsehood? Therefore those who receive this grace owe and give eternal thanks to God alone; those who do not receive it either do not care at all about these spiritual things and are satisfied with themselves in their condition, or else in self-assurance foolishly boast about having something which they lack.  
Canons of Dort, Part III/IV, Article 15  
*Responses to God's Grace*

Here is revelation bright as the evening star: Jesus comes for sinners, for those as outcast as tax collectors and for those caught up in squalid choices and failed dreams. He comes for corporate executives, street people, superstars, farmers, hookers, addicts, IRS agents, AIDS victims, and even used-car salesmen. Jesus not only talks with these people but dines with them—fully aware that His table fellowship with sinners will raise the eyebrows of religious bureaucrats who hold up the robes and insignia of their authority to justify their condemnation of the truth and their rejection of the gospel of grace.  
Brennan Manning

People who have only a little dinky bit of sin can only visualize a little dinky cross. Those who are forgiven much, as the Gospel says, "love much."  
Frederica Matthewes-Green

# RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 24, 2017 • 11:00 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

### Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leaders In Worship: Assisting Elder Bob Thornton

Nancy Allen, piano

### WELCOME & PRELUDE

*Program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.*

*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 85

Pastor: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us...

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

**All: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.**

Pastor: Let me hear what the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his  
people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

**All: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

Pastor: Yes, the LORD will give what is good...Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way. Come, let us worship.

### HYMN OF PRAISE: 660 "O God beyond All Praising"

### 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.*

# COMMITMENT

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HYMN: 701 “Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

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: 735 “Gloria Patri”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 341 “O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping through Us”

# PREACHING OF THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Luke 7:36-50*

<sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. <sup>37</sup>And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, <sup>38</sup>and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup>Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." <sup>40</sup>And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

<sup>41</sup>"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" <sup>43</sup>Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." <sup>44</sup>Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup>You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. <sup>46</sup>You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup>Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." <sup>48</sup>And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." <sup>49</sup>Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" <sup>50</sup>And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

**SERMON:**

"Scandalous Love"

Rev. Jeff Pate

# CONFESSIO

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## SCRIPTURE READING: *Jeremiah 3:19-25*

<sup>19</sup>“I said, How I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. <sup>20</sup>Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the Lord.” <sup>21</sup>A voice on the bare heights is heard, the weeping and pleading of Israel's sons because they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the Lord their God. <sup>22</sup>“Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness. Behold, we come to you, for you are the Lord our God. <sup>23</sup>Truly the hills are a delusion, the orgies on the mountains. Truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel. <sup>24</sup>But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured all for which our fathers labored, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. <sup>25</sup>Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us. For we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and we have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSIO 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 CONFESSIO

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Titus 3*

Pastor: Hear the good news. We ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

All: But when the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

# COMMUNION

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**HYMN:** 261 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

**Pastor:** The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**All:** **We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.**

**Pastor:** The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**All:** **The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

## **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:** 648 “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

## **BENEDICTION**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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# TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

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Covenant Kids Club meets tonight at 4:30pm. Youth groups also meet this evening (see detailed announcements on the following page). Choir rehearsal is in the sanctuary at 5:00pm.

## SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

Sept. 24 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group / Choir Rehearsal  
Oct. 1 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group / Evening Worship  
Oct. 8 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group / Choir Rehearsal

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

September 26 Asher Henry

September 27 Tristan Drinkard

## JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH

Junior High Youth Group continues in awesomeness this afternoon from 4:30 to 6:10 with an exciting new game and the return of the "I Don't Get It?!" Sunday Sermon Shakedown Series. {All Junior High Youth should take notes on the sermon during the morning service and then bring those notes to youth group Sunday afternoon}. We'll see YOU at the Barn!

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

It's time for some Mafia! Come and join us from 5:40pm - 7:45pm in the Barn tonight to find out whodunnit and ydeydunnit - then stick around for some singing and some much needed time in God's Word. Hope to see YOU there!

## BUILDING LOAN

Riverwood has secured a new, fixed rate commercial loan. We hope to reduce the principal by \$100,000 prior to closing on this new loan, resulting in significant savings over the life of the loan. So far, nearly \$49,000 has been donated! If you desire to help with this goal, please give by Sept. 25 and write "building principal" on the memo line of that offering.

## RCS JAZZ AND TAP DANCE CLASSES

Riverwood Classical School's Ballet Program has been expanded to add Tap 1 and 2 and Jazz 1 and 2 classes. 1 level classes are for students 5-9 years old, and 2 level classes are for students 10 and older. All classes are on Monday afternoons between 3:30 and 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. For the exact schedule and tuition, please see <http://sites.google.com/a/riverwoodclassical.org/ballet/home>. For additional information, please email Valerie Robertson at [ballet@riverwoodclassical.org](mailto:ballet@riverwoodclassical.org).

## SNACKS FOR CATECHISM

A message from Joann Williams: Snacks needed! Approximately 20 children attend Catechism each week and they are hungry after being in school! The best items are individual snack size portions of cookies, crackers, chips, etc. I can also use drinks (individual or gallon containers). Due to allergies, please do not provide anything with peanuts. A box will be in the foyer of the sanctuary for the next two weeks.

# 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: Debbie Jones

## MEETING UPSTAIRS:

Grades 1-3: Monica Urban  
Grades 4-6: Ginny Nippert

## MEETING IN THE BARN:

Youth Class – led by Jeff Pate

## MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Adult Class

## MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Benevolence Committee – led by the Diaconate

# MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

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## NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

September 24: Heather Henson / Monica Urban / Olivia Staggs & Lorrie Pate / David Barnes  
October 1: Amanda Brown / Ginny Nippert / April Henry & Savannah Cook / Hannah Urban

## SEPTEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacons: Greg Vander Wal & Tom Arnold  
Clean Up: Steve Patridge & Dusty Sheppard

# FINANCIAL REPORT

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## OPERATIONS:

Operating Income:	\$306,062.44
Operating Expense*:	\$301,488.29
Net Income:	\$4,574.15
Designated gifts:	\$45,577.00

\*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment

## BUILDING FUND:

Total pledges received:	\$781,429.09
Received 2017 to-date:	\$72,680.23
Building account balance:	\$45,032.59
Monthly payment:	\$8,127.35
Loan balance:	\$1,031,722.78