

REFLECTIONS

According to the arrangement of God, the Christian is more of a Christian in society than alone, and more in the enjoyment of privileges of a spiritual kind when he shares them with others, than when he possesses them apart...The Christian Church was established in the world, to realize the superior advantages of a social over an individual Christianity, and to set up and maintain the communion of the saints.

James Bannerman
19th century Scottish theologian

(Americans) owe nothing to any man, they expect nothing from any man, they acquire the habit of always considering themselves as standing alone, and they are apt to imagine that their whole destiny is in their hands...(this attitude) throws (the American) back forever upon himself alone, and threatens in the end to confine him entirely within the solitude of his own heart.

Alexis de Tocqueville
(1805-1859)

“The truth of the gospel,” therefore, is not merely a doctrine but a social reality, a truth that must be embodied in the practices of a community.

Richard B. Hays
from *Galatians*

Mutual submission is the key to the pattern of life in Christ's church...Christians are to find freedom in their submission to God, freedom in which they can submit to others for the Lord's sake.

Edmund Clowney

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 29, 2019 • 10:30 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Sixteenth 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

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 133*

Pastor: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
All: **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!**
Pastor: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!
All: **For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.**
Pastor: As God's people, let us come in unity. Let us come and worship!

HYMN OF PRAISE: 342 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

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: *Exodus 19:1-6*

¹On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ²They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Colossians 2*

Pastor: Lift your heads and hear the good news! By faith in Jesus Christ, you have been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

All: **Though we were dead in our trespasses and the uncircumcision of our flesh, God made us alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.**

Pastor: He did this by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside by nailing it to the cross.

All: **Jesus Christ gave his life for our salvation and on the cross declared, "It is finished."**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

COMMITMENT

HYMN: 247 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 332 "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 4:1-16*

⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." ⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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

SERMON: "The God We Believe In: The Body He Has Formed" Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION

HYMN: 457 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

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.

O CHURCH, ARISE

1. O church, arise, and put your armor on; hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

2. Our call to war – to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure;
And Christ will have the prize for which He died: an inheritance of nations.

3. Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away, and Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

4. So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride; give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day when with Christ we stand in Glory.

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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BENEDICTION

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. This morning, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

SERVICE TEAM LUNCHEON

Please join us for lunch today! Following morning worship, 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.

COVENANT KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Kids Club meets tonight in the fellowship hall from 5:30-7:00pm. Youth Group will NOT meet today.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DINNERS

Join with the RUF Students again this semester as they share the gospel over a meal with international students! We are asked to help by first praying for the students to hear and receive the gospel in Truth and then by providing side dishes for their meal together. See your announcement email for a link to sign up. Please provide servings for 20 people preferably in disposable dishes by 5:00pm at the Administrative Building. Thank you for supporting this local mission work! Questions? Contact Lorrie Pate, 205-771-0158.

YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Youth Game Night is this Wednesday, October 2, from 6:00-7:30pm at Will Tootle's house (2112 Manassas Ave 35406).

THANK YOU FROM WINGS OF GRACE

Thank you friends of Riverwood for your generous monetary donation to the ministry of The Wings of Grace. As food is still the highest demand, we plan to use these funds to purchase food from the West Alabama Food Bank for our clients. We still average assisting 145 each Thursday in just 4 hours! Thank you for blessing us!

-Mrs. Terri Hibbard, Director & The DeHaans, Full-time volunteers

OTHER EVENTS COMING SOON

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

Sunday, October 27: Reformation Celebration

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

September 29: Kristina Patridge / Olivia Patridge / Bruce & Mickey DeHaan / Michael Henry
October 6: Kristina Patridge / Ginny Nippert / Gracen Miller & Eli Bell / Parker Pate

SEPTEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacon: Steve Patridge
Clean Up: Greg Vander Wal

FINANCIAL REPORT

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*