

Sermon Notes

"Waiting with Hope"
Psalm 33

We wait with hope because...

1. The LORD leads us by His counsel.
2. The LORD sees us by His favor.
3. The LORD protects us by His power.

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, December 13

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 13 after the 8:00 am worship service. It will be held in the Sanctuary and via Zoom for the following purposes:

- To receive as information and with thanksgiving a ministry and financial update.
- To vote on any changes in the Pastors' Terms of Call.

Prayer Opportunities

RECUPERATING: Greg Alty, Chuck and Anne Spruill, and Ryan Webb

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO: Jeff Griffith and family in the death of his father, Paul Griffith, on November 20. He lived in Charlotte, NC.

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army, well-known throughout the world for its ministry of compassion to people in need, ministers in the city of Lynchburg through a number of programs, like the Red Kettle program (sign up to ring the bell at Walmart on Old Forest Road, December 19-24 at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054ca8a623a3fc1-salvation>). Pray for gospel transformation in the lives of those the Lynchburg Salvation Army serves through casework and counseling, youth services, rehabilitation ministry, feeding programs, emergency shelter for the homeless, transitional housing for women and children, and day care.

Fasting & Prayer

Please join us for prayer via Zoom on Tuesday, December 1 at 12:00 pm as we set aside this day for fasting and praying for the Lord's advent.

Prayer & Care

If you have a need or prayer request, please share that need through the Rivermont website at www.rivermont.org/prayer. You may also email janet@rivermont.org. All requests are confidential.

Welcome to Rivermont!

Visitors, whether you are new to Lynchburg or new to our church, we are so grateful to the Lord that He has brought you to us this morning. We would love to connect with you more personally and we invite you to fill out a Connect Card on our website at rivermont.org/connect.

Next Steps to Connect:

We invite you to take some additional steps to get more connected to this church body.

- Attend the next Getting to Know Rivermont class. Learn more at www.rivermont.org/gtkr.
- Visit www.rivermont.org/zoom to find Adult Online Discipleship groups.
- Attend an Adult Sunday School class via Zoom at 9:30 am between worship services. Visit www.rivermont.org/zoomss for class offerings.
- Attend men's, women's, or youth Bible studies and events throughout the year.

If you would like more information about these opportunities, visit our website at rivermont.org.

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Ways to give:

1. By placing your offering in the offering plates located in the Narthex.
2. By texting an amount to 434-595-3833; follow the prompts.
3. Online at www.rivermont.org/give.
4. By mailing a check to REPC, 2424 Rivermont Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503.

Coming Up This Week

Sunday, November 29 - First Sunday in Advent

- 8:00 am Worship Service
- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (via Zoom)
- 9:30 am 20 Somethings+ Life Group (via Zoom)
- 9:30 am 7th-12th grade Sunday School (via Zoom)
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (via Zoom)

Monday, November 30

- 9:00 am Preschool

Tuesday, December 1

- 6:30 am Dawn Patrol Men's Bible Study (via Zoom)
- 9:00 am Preschool
- 10:30 am Women's Circle (Quinlan)
- 12:00 pm Monthly Fasting and Prayer Meeting (via Zoom)
- 5:00 pm Preschool Fundraising Night (Jersey Mike's Subs, Old Forest Road)

Wednesday, December 2

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 4:30 pm Praise Ringers (Chapel)
- 5:15 pm Carillon (Chapel)
- 5:15 pm Chapel Choir (Choir Room)
- 5:15 pm New Song (Room 301)

Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday in Advent

- 8:00 am Worship Service with Communion
- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (via Zoom)
- 9:30 am 20 Somethings+ Life Group (via Zoom)
- 9:30 am 7th-12th grade Sunday School (via Zoom)
- 9:45 am Communion with the Pastors (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am Worship Service with Communion
- 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (via Zoom)

Contact Us

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Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a group of churches whose beliefs are summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms. For more information, go to www.epc.org.



RIVERMONT

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR PASSION: *the renewing of lives through God's compelling love in Lynchburg and the world.*

ORDER of WORSHIP

November 29, 2020
First Sunday in Advent

Preparation for Worship

As you enter the Sanctuary, prepare your heart for worship and please silence your mobile devices.

THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

O coming Christ, our soul longs for You and waits for You with hope-filled hearts. We bless You that according to Your great mercy You have caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Help us to set our hope on the risen Christ as we wait for His return. Ground us in this living hope as we endure suffering. Help us to worship You by the power of the Spirit that we may grow in hope as we give glory to You. Amen.

PRELUDE: "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" J. S. Bach

Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying,
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight hears the welcome voices and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Where are the virgins pure and wise?"
The Bridegroom comes: Awake! Your lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia!
With bridal care and faith's bold prayer, to meet the Bridegroom,
Come, prepare!"

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Pastor Brett Eubank

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively): Psalm 33

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings!

Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE: (See Insert)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Hope

8:00 am: Bert and Susan Zajac

11:00 am: George and Linda Paulson

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

THE CALL TO CONFESSION (responsively):

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered

Blessed is the one against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively):

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the LORD there is steadfast love and redemption.

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord. Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of our pleas for mercy!

Forgive us for our lives of despair.

We have not sought You in our sadness, nor cried out to You in our distress.

Forgive us for our lives of despair.

We have forgotten You are with us even in the valley of the shadow of death.

Forgive us for our lives of despair.

We have complained in discontentment rather than rest in Your providence.

Forgive us for our lives of despair.

We have given up on holiness and forsaken Your law.

Hear us in Your mercy.

(Silent Confession)

We wait for the LORD, our souls wait, and in His Word do we hope.

And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (v. 1)

HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art,

Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

*THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

(Romans 15:7)

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 33

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON: "Waiting with Hope" Pastor Mike Palombo

THE PRAYER FOR A RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from Colossians 1:15-20 (in unison)

We believe in Christ Jesus: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

*THE GLORIA: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)

GLORIA

Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o, Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o!

(meaning, "Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14)

THE PASTORAL PRAYER, concluding with THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison):

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

(8:00) THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

The Sanctuary Choir

"Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room"

Lloyd Larson

O sing your praise! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long!

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and ev'ry voice a song!

He comes, He comes to set the pris'ner free.

He comes, yes, He comes to reign triumphantly.

He comes, He comes to save, this King of kings.

He comes, yes, He comes with healing in His wings.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,

Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

*THE DOXOLOGY:

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison):

Gracious Father, we thank You that through Jesus we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. Fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope. We offer to You these gifts and our lives that hope may abound to many through the spread of the gospel and the work of Your kingdom in Lynchburg and the world. Come, O Christ, light up the darkness by the light of Your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: (See Insert)

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

AURELIA

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CHORAL RESPONSE (sung by all):

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*(PLEASE WAIT FOR ROW-BY-ROW DISMISSAL BY THE USHERS)

*POSTLUDE: "Lift Up Your Heads"

arr. Edward G. Mead

*The congregation standing. Please feel free to be seated if you need to do so.
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