

Sermon Notes

"The Value of Christ's Kingdom"
Matthew 13:44-50

Yielding Our Hearts

1. Discovering the Kingdom

2. Pursuing the Prize

3. Understanding the Net

Exalting Christ

Prayer Opportunities

ONGOING PRAYER: Michael Herbert, Will Jenkins and Westray Nowlin

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: Chris and Lori Gassler

The Gasslers are missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators, in Yaounde, Cameroon, where Chris directs the Ethnomusicology/Arts group. They recently returned to Cameroon after a year-long furlough, which turned into a two year-long furlough because of COVID-19. Since returning, Lori has been able to continue her work as a Librarian at an international school. Chris has already led a songwriting workshop with the Iyassa community in southwest Cameroon and is now seeking funding to regularly teach his Arts for a Better Future course throughout Africa as well as publish a children's Sunday School curriculum for the Makaa language community in East Cameroon that was developed by fellow missionaries. Pray for the Gasslers as they labor for God's glory in Cameroon.

Prayer & Care

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

Welcome to Rivermont!

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 Digital Connect Card by scanning the QR code into your mobile device. You can also fill out a Connect Card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.



Next Steps to Connect:

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

- Attend live or Zoom Sunday School classes at 9:45 am (rivermont.org/sundayschool).
- Join us for dinner (5:45 pm) and Bible studies (6:30 pm) on Wednesday nights. To make dinner reservations go to rivermont.org/rfn.
- Attend men's, women's, or youth Bible studies and events throughout the year.
- Attend the next Getting to Know Rivermont Class. Learn more at rivermont.org/gtkr.

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

For more information, please visit rivermont.org/events

Sunday, October 17

8:00 am Prayer for the Services (Family Room)
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 9:45 am 20 Somethings+ Life Group
 9:45 am College Hour (CO House)
 9:45 am GTKR (Country Gardens)
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Sanctuary)

Monday, October 18

9:00 am Preschool
 10:00 am Prayer Group (Room 203)

Tuesday, October 19

6:30 am Dawn Patrol Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall & via Zoom)
 6:00pm Deacons' Meeting
 7:00 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 20

9:00 am Preschool
 4:30 pm Praise Ringers
 5:15 pm Carillon, Chapel, Cherub, New Song
 5:45 pm Rivermont Fellowship Night Meal

Wednesday, October 20 cont'd

6:00 pm BRITE Class (Room 203)
 6:30 pm Bible Studies
 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, October 21

9:30 am Women's Oasis Bible Study
 10:00 am Community Bible Study

Friday, October 22

6:30 pm 20 Somethings+ Fourth Friday Food & Fun (Yoder's Farm Corn Maze)

Saturday, October 23

10:30 am 7th-8th Grade (Jump and CiCi's Pizza)

Sunday, October 24

8:00 am Prayer for the Services (Family Room)
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 9:45 am 20 Somethings+ Life Group
 9:45 am College Hour
 9:45 am GTKR (Country Gardens)
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)
 6:30 pm 7th-12th Grade SNL (Youth Center)

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.



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

ORDER of WORSHIP

October 17, 2021

Preparation for Worship

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

THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

Father of all grace and glory, look upon us in love and compassion through Your Son, Jesus Christ; and, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, enable us to worship You in spirit and in truth. Help us to draw near to You, in the assurance that You dwell with those who are of humble and contrite heart. Renew our minds by the truth of Your Word, strengthen our souls, and direct our wills; that we may more fervently love You and more sincerely serve You, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

PRELUDE:

(8:30) **"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"** arr. Carolyn Hamlin

Jesus, the very thought of Thee with sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see, and in Thy presence rest.
Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the mem'ry find,
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name, O Savior of mankind.
Jesus, our only joy be Thou, as Thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be Thou our glory now, and through eternity.

(11:00) **"How Can I Keep From Singing?"** Adelheid Terry, soloist
Lowry, arr. DeFord and Loynes

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation;
I hear the sweet though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?
What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord, my Savior liveth;
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night He giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging,
Since Christ is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?
I lift mine eyes, the cloud grows thin, I see the blue above it,
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine since I am His, how can I keep from singing?

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Pastor Mike Palombo

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 28:6-9 (responsively)**
Blessed be the LORD! For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield;
In Him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.
The LORD is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed.
Oh, save Your people and bless Your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #26**
"Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord" WOODLANDS

***THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION**

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Micah 7:18-20**

***THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:**
"How Deep the Father's Love for Us" (v. 1) TOWNEND
**How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure!
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.**

***THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**
"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
(Romans 15:7)
(Children pre-K through first grade may be dismissed for Children's Church to the orange room, #115.)

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:44-50 (page 819)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON: **"The Value of Christ's Kingdom"** Pastor Ron Cox

THE PRAYER FOR A RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**
THE PHILIPPIAN CREED based on Philippians 2:6-11 (in unison):
We believe in Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death — even death on a cross! Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name that is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

***THE GLORIA:** **"Praise and Glory to the Father"** REGENT SQUARE
**Praise and glory to the Father, praise and glory to the Son,
Praise and glory to the Spirit: ever Three and ever One;
One in might and One in glory, while unending ages run!**

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.**

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:
(8:30) **"How Can I Keep From Singing?"** Adelheid Terry, soloist
Lowry, arr. DeFord and Loynes

(11:00) **"Mercy"** Sanctuary Choir
Craig Courtney
I dare not lift my guilty eyes. I hide my lips in trembling shame.
And in the darkness of my soul, I shrink from Your rekindling flame.
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, have mercy. (Lord, have mercy.)
In mercy cover me with grace, and blot out my iniquity.
Renew my heart and wash me clean; grant with Your pardon purity.
Kyrie eleison, have mercy.
In equal measure of Your love, You promise mercy,
Tender compassion to the one who seeks Your face.
A broken heart, a fainting soul,
A contrite spirit together cry for Your forgiveness and Your grace.
Against You only have I sinned. My deeds are evil in Your sight.
Of Your forgiveness let me sing, and in my singing take delight.
Kyrie eleison, have mercy.

***THE DOXOLOGY:** OLD HUNDREDETH
**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 praise You for every good and perfect gift which comes down from heaven. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins! We praise You for the gift of the Holy Spirit, by Whom we are born anew and adopted as Your children through Jesus our Lord. With joy, we present ourselves as living sacrifices in Your service. Receive and bless this offering, for the sake of Your kingdom, and send us forth in the power of Your Spirit to live as witnesses of Jesus Christ, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: #297** DIADEM
"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CHORAL AMEN (sung by all):**
"A-men, A-men, A-men!"

***POSTLUDE:** **"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"** arr. Alice Jordan

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