

Sermon Notes

"Kingdom Readiness"
Matthew 25:1-13

1. There is a Mystery to Christ's Advent (vv. 1-9)
2. There is a Reward to Christ's Advent (v. 10a)
3. There is a Finality to Christ's Advent (vv. 10b – 13)

Inclement Weather Policy:
 The final decision to cancel on-campus Sunday worship services will be announced by 6:00 am on Sunday. An announcement will be placed on the church website, WSET-TV, the church's voicemail, and a churchwide email and text will be sent. If the 8:30 am service is cancelled, on-campus Sunday school is also cancelled. When on-campus activities are cancelled, the REPC staff will attempt to provide online worship and Zoom discipleship. Wednesday music rehearsals will be held at the discretion of the Director of Music Ministry and notifications will be sent by email and text.

Prayer Opportunities

ONGOING PRAYER: Kenneth (Stick) Haun, Michael Herbert and Westray Nowlin

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY are extended to Aline (Didi) Bowles Jenkins in the death of her husband Will Jenkins on December 5. A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 13 at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: NO WALLS MINISTRY ANGEL TREE
 With thanksgiving, we praise God for His work through our partnership with No Walls Ministry. During the Advent Season, we have the opportunity of blessing needy families being served by No Walls Ministry churches. Stop by the Cheatham Reception Center and pick up an angel from the Angel Tree. Purchase an age-appropriate gift, wrap it, and return it to the church. Let's pray that as these gifts are given, each recipient will be assured of the care and love of Christ through the Body of Christ.

Prayer & Care

If you have a need or prayer request, please 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 and Bible Studies on Wednesday nights. RFN will resume January 12, 2022.
 - 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

<p>Sunday, December 12-Third Sunday of Advent 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) 11:00 am Worship Service 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel) 7:00 pm Messiah Presentation (Sanctuary)</p> <p>Monday, December 13 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Prayer Group (Room 206) 1:00 pm Memorial Service for Will Jenkins</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 14 6:30 am Dawn Patrol Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall & via Zoom) 9:00 am Preschool 10:30 am Circle Meeting (Country Gardens)</p> <p>Wednesday, December 15 9:00 am Preschool 5:15 pm Carillon 6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Party</p> <p>Sunday, December 19-Fourth Sunday of Advent 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) 11:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm 20 Somethings+ Lunch on the Run (Market at Main, 904 Main St.) 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)</p>
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Contact Us

MAIL: 2424 Rivermont Avenue
 Lynchburg, VA 24503

PHONE: (434) 846-3441

HOURS: Monday - Friday 8:30AM-5:00PM

EMAIL: rhonda@rivermont.org

WEB: www.rivermont.org

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/rivermontepc

TWITTER: twitter.com/rivermontepc

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

December 12, 2021
 Third Sunday of 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:

Gracious and ever-faithful God, over the centuries Your people have prayed Maranatha: Come, Lord Jesus, come! As we continue our journey this Advent season, be among us with Your guiding Spirit. Open our eyes that we might see, open our ears that we might truly worship in spirit and truth Your Son Who is coming again. In anticipation we pray this in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

PRELUDE:

(8:30) **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** arr. David Smart
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(11:00) **"Gloria! He's God's Own Son!"** Cherub Choir
Jeff Reeves
Sing we now of Christmas, let our voices raise
Joyful songs of gladness on this happy day!
Sing we now of Christmas, hear the angels sing,
"Glory in the highest to the newborn king!"
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! The Lord has come!
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! He's God's own Son!
Sing we now of Christmas, see His mother there
Holding Him so softly, filled with love and care.
Sing we now of Christmas, shepherds come and see
Who is in the manger born for you and me.
Amy Hall – Director; Sandra Landry – Accompanist

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Pastor Ron Cox

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalms 97:1; 98:7-9 (responsively)

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;

Let the many coastlands be glad!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD,

For He comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #195 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"** ANTIOCH

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Joy

8:30 am: George and JoAnne Caylor

11:00 am: Paul and Eileen Lass

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: 1 John 1:9

*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!" (verses 5,6) TRURO
Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on until the glorious crown be won.

*THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

"Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come."
(Rev 1:4)

(Children pre-K through first grade may be dismissed for Children's Church to room, #115.)

(11:00) ANTHEM FOR PREPARATION FOR THE WORD: Chapel Choir arr. Brad Nix

"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"
The Virgin Mary had a baby Boy, and they said that His name was Jesus.
He come from the glory. He come from the glorious kingdom.
The angels sang when the Baby born, and they said that His name was Jesus.
The wise men saw where the Baby born, and they said that His name was Jesus.
Lori Flowers – Director; Charis Jantomaso – Accompanist

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:1-13 (page 830)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON: **"Kingdom Readiness"** Dr. David Weber

THE PRAYER FOR A RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED (in unison)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who, for us and our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***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)

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Pat Mendoza

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

(8:30) **Sara Frazier and Charis Jantomaso**
"Mary, Did You Know?" Lowry, Green, arr. Fred Bock

Mary, did you know that your baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby Boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy will give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little Baby, you've kissed the face of God?
Did you know the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again!
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby Boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you're holding, He is the great I AM!
His name is Jesus.

(11:00) **Sanctuary Choir**
"Shepherd's Echo Carol" arr. John Leavitt

While by my sheep I watch'd at night glad tidings brought an angel bright:
How great my joy; joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.
There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a Child today.
Lord, evermore, to me be nigh, then shall my heart be fill'd with joy! Alleluia!

***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):

Dear Father, in response to Your great gift to us, we offer ourselves to You, with thanksgiving and joy. Accept these tokens of our lives; bless and multiply them for the spread of the gospel, the strengthening of Your Church, and the increase of Your kingdom, to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: #218** **"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"** REGENT SQUARE

*THE BENEDICTION

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

***POSTLUDE:** **"Overture from 'Unto Us a Child Is Born' "** J. S. Bach
*The congregation standing. Please feel free to be seated if you need to do so.