

Sermon Notes

"Steadfast Faith in the Face of Opposition"

From Ezra 4

As followers of Christ in building our trust in Him,

1. We learn that opposition is real.
2. We learn that opposition is ongoing.
3. We learn that opposition is a precious jewel.

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Ways to give:

1. By placing your offering in the offering plate.
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.

Prayer Opportunities

ONGOING PRAYER: Priscila Ribeiro-Cummings, Lucy Harris, Michael Herbert, Joan Pennock, Ellen Torrance and Tami Urbina

RECUPERATING: George Caylor, Lowell Sykes, Charlie Wilson and Kenny Wright

IN APPRECIATION: *Dear Rivermont Family, Our hearts are full of thankfulness and gratitude for you and your faithful prayers and care offered on our behalf as I was away caring for my parents. The Lord has graciously met our needs. You are a beautiful testimony and witness of His love and power at work through the family of God. Becky and Jeff Griffith*

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: FOSTERING HOPE

Fostering Hope was started in 2019 by Lori Flowers as a way to care for and encourage families at Rivermont and in our community who care for foster children. Foster and adoptive families need community to surround them in their calling, and Fostering Hope provides an opportunity for everyone at Rivermont to serve these families by offering meals, practical needs (bunk beds, strollers, carseats, etc.), transporting children to appointments, mentoring children and other important avenues. We're thrilled to have Lori provide a ministry update today of God's work in this ministry to our families. To get more information, go to our website: rivermont.org/fostering-hope or contact Lori at (434) 660-1168.

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 Sunday School classes at 9:45 am (rivermont.org/sundayschool).
- Join us for dinner and Bible Studies 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 Weekend on October 21-22. To learn more and to sign up go to rivermont.org/gtkr.

Coming Up This Week

For more information, please visit rivermont.org/events

Sunday, September 18

8:00 am Prayer for the Services (Family Room)
8:30 am Worship Service
9:00 am College Coffee (CO House)
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am 20 Somethings+ Life Group
9:45 am No Getting To Know Rivermont
11:00 am Worship Service
12:30 pm Rivermont Rhythm & Rockin' Picnic
4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)
5:00 pm Grief Share Support Group (Room 201)
6:00 pm 9th-12th Grade SNL (Youth Center)

Monday, September 19

9:00 am Preschool
10:00 am Prayer Group (Room 206)

Tuesday, September 20

6:26 am HS 626 (Chick-fil-A, Hobby Lobby)
6:30 am Dawn Patrol Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Preschool
12:00 pm 60 +/- Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
6:15 pm Deacons' Meeting (John Knox)
7:00 pm Officers' Prayer Meeting (John Knox)
7:30 pm Session Meeting (John Knox)

Wednesday, September 21

9:00 am Preschool
4:30 pm Praise Ringers

Wednesday, September 21, continued

5:15 pm Carillon, Cherub, Chapel, & New Song
5:45 pm Rivermont Fellowship Night Meal
6:30 pm Bible Studies
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, September 22

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

Friday, September 23

New River Presbytery - New Life Church, Salem
6:00 pm 20 Somethings+ & Homebuilders Class
Trivia Night (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, September 24

New River Presbytery - New Life Church, Salem
7:30 am VA 10-Miler (in front of church)

Sunday, September 25

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 Getting To Know Rivermont (Country Gardens)
11:00 am Worship Service
12:30 pm College Lunch (CO House)
4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)
5:00 pm Grief Share Support Group (Room 201)
6:00 pm 7th-12th Grade SNL (Youth Center)

Contact Us

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

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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

September 18, 2022

Preparation for Worship

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

THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

Almighty and everlasting God, in Whom alone is our peace and security: Grant us this day to draw near to You in faith, with sorrowful repentance for all our sins, with humble trust in Jesus Christ the only Savior, with renewed resolve to honor and obey You, placing all our confidence and hope in You alone; all by the grace of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

PRELUDE:

(8:30) **Doug and Julie Haley, Drew Neiderer, Vicky Pogue**
"Psalm 150" Boswell, Papa, arr. Wise

You made the starry host. You traced the mountain peaks.

You paint the ev'ning skies with wonders.

The earth, it is Your throne, from desert to the sea.

All nature testifies Your splendor.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord. Sing His greatness, all creation.

Praise the Lord, raise your voice. You heights and all you depths,

From furthest east to west, let ev'rything that has breath praise the Lord.

You reached into the dust, with love Your Spirit breathed.

You formed us in Your very likeness

To know Your wondrous works, to tell Your mighty deeds,

To join the everlasting chorus.

Let symphonies resound, let drums and choirs ring out.

All heaven hear the sound of worship.

Let ev'ry nation bring its honors to the King, a roar of harmonies eternal!

You distant burning stars, all creatures near and far,

From sky to sea to shore, sing out forevermore.

Let ev'rything that has breath praise the Lord.

(11:00) **"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"** arr. David H. Hegarty

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Pastor Mike Palombo**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP: 1 Peter 1:3-4, Psalm 95:1-2 (responsively)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead;

And to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading!

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #17**
"Praise the Lord: Ye Heavens Adore Him" FABEN

*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Romans 5:6-8**

*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us" (vs. 1 & 3)

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.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;

But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

(11:00) BIBLE CEREMONY:

(Graduation from Children's Church for Rising Second Grade Students)

*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 room #115)

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: From Ezra 4 (page 656)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON: "Steadfast Faith in the Face of Oppostion" 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!

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Lori Flowers, Fostering Hope

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 RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

(8:30)

"Give Me Jesus"

Sanctuary Choir

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Oh, when I am alone, oh, when I am alone,

Oh, when I am alone, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.

You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

When I lose my way, oh, when I lose my way,

Oh, when I lose my way, give me Jesus.

When I come to die, when I come to die,

Oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.

When I want to sing, when I want to sing,

When my heart and my voice cry out, oh, give me Jesus.

Noah Caldwell, piano

(11:00)

Doug and Julie Haley, Drew Neiderer, Vicky Pogue

"Psalm 150"

Boswell, Papa, arr. Wise

*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):

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You did not spare Your own Son, but gave Him up for us all; and with Him, You have freely given us all things. Receive these offerings, we pray; and enable us, with all our gifts, so to yield ourselves to You that with body and soul we may truly and freely serve You, and in Your service find our perfect freedom and our deepest joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: #92

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

EIN' FESTE BURG

*THE BENEDICTION

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

"A-men, A-men, A-men!"

*POSTLUDE:

"Chaconne"

Louis Couperin

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