

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH: What does it mean to be the church? What are its marks and attributes? What is its mission? How does it relate to the state and broader culture? Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am for this class, co-taught by pastors and elders.

THROUGH THE BIBLE CLASS: Please join us as we ponder God's Word together and journey through Habakkuk, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Co-taught by Dennis Booker, Mark Brink, Jim Gibson, & Phil Hoekstra. We meet in Rms. 116-117 at 9:30am.

RIVEROAKS COLLEGE&CAREER CLASS: Romans is Paul's pinnacle letter to the church, and it's all about the gospel and its life-changing implications. Join us in the Parlor at 9:30am. Co-taught by Josh Brink, Daniel Gillespie, Pete Hansen, Morgan Murphy, & Drew Turberville.

ELDERS

Joshua Brink
Daniel Gillespie
Pete Hansen
Brad Harris
John Linn
Morgan Murphy

Jim Newsom
Lee Robinson
Brent Sheppard
Tod Stoner
Paul Vander Zwaag

DEACONS

Vince Alfonso
David Dickinson
Mike Gard
Paul Gentry
Skip Hannah
Phil Hoekstra

Dan Lacina
Joe Maliskas
Greg Moon
Ryan Porter
Randy Terry

STAFF

Senior Pastor
Pastor of Operations
Pastor of Student Ministries
Assistant Pastor
Pastoral Intern
Music Coordinator/Organist
Choir Director
Bookkeeper
Women in Crisis Committee
Nursery Director

Tommy Lee
Rob Callison
Drew Turberville
Kyle Dillon
Dennis Booker
Molly Pennington
Ginger Smith
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Erin Turberville
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WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday School - 9:30am
Morning Worship - 10:45pm
Evening Worship (1st & 3rd Sundays) - 6:00pm
Community Groups (2nd & 4th Sunday evenings) - times vary



www.riveroakspca.org, 901-755-7772

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Sermons can be watched, heard or downloaded at www.riveroakspca.org



THE LORD'S DAY

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

10:45AM

TO GLORIFY GOD AND ENJOY HIM FOREVER

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus!
Thank you for joining us today; may the Lord richly bless you.
† Stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. The Piano Guys/Jaden Lee, cello

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFLECTION

Christmas, therefore, is the most unsentimental, realistic way of looking at life. It does not say, “Cheer up! If we all pull together we can make the world a better place.” The Bible never counsels indifference to the forces of darkness, only resistance, but it supports no illusions that we can defeat them ourselves. Christianity does not agree with the optimistic thinkers who say, “We can fix things if we try hard enough.” Nor does it agree with the pessimists who see only a dystopian future.

The message of Christianity is, instead, “Things really are this bad, and we can’t heal or save ourselves. Things really are this dark—nevertheless, there is hope.” The Christmas message is that “on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.”

Notice that it doesn’t say from the world a light has sprung, but upon the world a light has dawned. It has come from outside. There is light outside of this world, and Jesus has brought that light to save us; indeed, he is the Light.

Tim Keller

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to Riveroaks! We are delighted you have joined us for worship this morning. We would love to get to know you and serve you anyway we can. Please consider filling out a visitor's card and putting it in the offering plate or scanning the QR code to access our online visitor form. *“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake”* (2 Corinthians 4:5).

The Riveroaks Weekly email is published each Thursday. To sign up, contact office@riveroakspca.org.

A Service of Lessons and Carols: Please join as the Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs present a Service of Lessons and Carols tonight, 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. The service is based on nine lessons and carols historically presented by King's College in Cambridge, England. The scriptures selected and the carols that follow show the narrative of Jesus' birth all through out the Old and New Testament. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful evening as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Disturbing the Waters: As the days turn colder and darker, Advent is a time when God disturbs the water of our lives with terror, wonder, and mystery. Please join us next Sunday evening, December 18, 6:00pm, as Art Hunt, recently retired from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a student at Reformed Theological Seminary, presents a message from the Christmas Story.

Christmas Eve Worship Service: Please join us for a Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm on Saturday, December 24. *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”* (the Prophet Isaiah, 8th century BC).

Riveroaks Holiday Schedule: We will not have Sunday School classes on Sunday December 25, but Christmas worship is still scheduled for the normal time, 10:45am. Both Sunday School and worship will be held at the normal times on Sunday, January 1, 2023.

The Gathering "Holiday" New Year's Eve Party: All empty nesters and above are invited to a "Holiday" New Year's Eve Party on Saturday, December 31, 5:00- 9:00pm at the Linn's home. The cost will be \$10 per person which will include all food and drinks. A detailed announcement and sign-up will be sent out through the group's email list sometime next week. If you are not currently a part of the Gathering and would like to join, please email Jeanne Keeton at jeannekeeton@gmail.com.

For more announcements, please see The Riveroaks Weekly.

SERMON NOTES

Psalm 97 (page 499)
XII. Let Earth Receive Her King
Pastor Tommy Lee

"He's the King."

Psalm 97 Bears Its Witness

How Do We Enter Into This Reality?

THE LORD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 7:14; Luke 2:14

The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

† HYMN OF PRAISE

“The King Shall Come”
(see insert)

† PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

THE LORD CLEANSSES US IN CHRIST

READING OF THE WORD

Isaiah 35:1-10
Noelle Brink

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord, we want more than anything to enter into your presence and worship you face to face, awed by your majesty, greatness, and glory, encouraged by your love, mercy, and goodness. Yet we know that there is coldness in our hearts and unwillingness to admit our sin and need for you. Forgive us, Father. Come near to us and strengthen us until Christ shall reign supreme within us, in every thought, word, and deed, in a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and always clings to the cross....*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin....Amen!*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Luke 1:68,69; Matthew 1:23

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.... She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

† **SONG OF FAITH**

“The Advent of Our King”
(see insert)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND SUPPLICATION

Elder Pete Hansen

HIS TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

ANTHEM

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”
arr. Danner/The Adult Choir

Awake, my spirit, awake lute and harp; I will awake at the dawn of day.
I will confess You, O Lord among the nations.
I will raise a psalm to You, for Your love, is wide as the heavens,
And Your truth reaches to the skies!

Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem at last.

Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth you maidens! Night is past.

The bridegroom comes, awake; Your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia! Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord, whose light has stirred the waiting guard.

Zion heard the watchmen singing and in her heart new joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.

For her Lord comes all glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious.
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.

Oh, come, You Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Sing hosanna! We go until the halls we view where You have bid us dine with You.

Now let all the heav'ns adore You, and saints and angels sing before You.
The harps and cymbals all unite.

Of one pearl each shining portal, where, dwelling with the choir immortal
We gather around Your dazzling light.

No eye has seen nor ear has yet been trained to hear.
What joy is ours! Crescendos rise; Your halls resound. Hosannas blend in cosmic sound.

Arise, O Jerusalem! Arise clothed in light!
Your light has come, and the glory of God upon your hearts will shine.
Alleluia!

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

SERMON TEXT

Psalm 97

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

Pastor Tommy Lee

SERMON SERIES: SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD
XII. Let Earth Receive Her King

† **HYMN OF RESPONSE, No. 195**

“Joy to the World”

† **BENEDICTION**

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

POSTLUDE

“Wake, Awake for Night is Flying”

arr. Manz