

# COMING SOON!

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES, STARTING JANUARY 1, 2023

**RIVEROAKS COLLEGE&CAREER CLASS:** Pastor Kyle Dillon and Elder Daniel Gillespie will conclude the study of Romans (chapters 12-16), and then begin a study of Edmund Clowney's book *The Church*, in which we will address such questions as the church's mission, leadership, gifts, and more. Come join us!

**THROUGH THE BIBLE CLASS:** "In the divine Scriptures, there are shallows and there are deeps; shallows where the lamb may wade, and deeps where the elephant may swim" (John Owen). A rotation of five teachers lead stimulating discussions while our journey continues, as Israel returns to Jerusalem after the exile.

**WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH CLASS:** This confession faithfully summarizes the major doctrines and principles of Scripture, and does so in a concise manner utilizing an amazing economy of language. A rotation of four teachers take us through the Scriptures as we seek good gospel and doctrinal maturity.

## ELDERS

Joshua Brink	Jim Newsom
Daniel Gillespie	Lee Robinson
Pete Hansen	Brent Sheppard
Brad Harris	Tod Stoner
John Linn	Paul Vander Zwaag
Morgan Murphy	

## DEACONS

Vince Alfonso	Dan Lacina
David Dickinson	Joe Maliskas
Mike Gard	Greg Moon
Paul Gentry	Ryan Porter
Skip Hannah	Randy Terry
Phil Hoekstra	

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Sermons can be watched, heard or downloaded at [www.riveroakspca.org](http://www.riveroakspca.org)



# THE LORD'S DAY

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022

10:45AM

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TO GLORIFY GOD AND ENJOY HIM FOREVER

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# 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

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

arr. Behnke

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## REFLECTION

*O Savior, rend the heavens wide; Come down, come down with mighty stride.  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down; Unbar the way to heaven's crown.*

*O Father, light from heaven send; As gentle dew, O Son, descend.  
Drop down, you clouds, the spring of life: To Jacob's line rain down the King.*

*O earth, in flowering bud be seen; Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare; Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.*

*O Fount of hope, how long, how long? When will You come with comfort strong?  
O come, O come, Your throne forego; Console us in our vale of woe.*

*O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without Your light, We grope in gloom and dark of night.*

*Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O come, lead us with mighty hand, From exile to our Promised Land.*

*There shall we all our praises bring, And sing to You, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud You and adore, Forever and forevermore.*

An Advent hymn, by Friedrich von Spee (1591-1635)

# 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](mailto:office@riveroakspca.org).

**God Breaks In:** Advent is the story of God breaking into our lives as revealed in Isaiah's hope, Gabriel's announcements, and Mary's wonderment. Please join us tonight at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall as Art Hunt, recently retired from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a student at Reformed Theological Seminary, shares with us a Christmas message.

**Riveroaks Holiday Office Hours:** The church office will be closed December 23, 26-30, 2022 and January 2, 2023. For urgent issues, please contact Phil Hoekstra (901-413-6960).

**Holiday Nursery Schedule:** In order to allow our nursery volunteers the opportunity to worship with their families, the church nursery will be closed on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Sunday morning, the Nursery will be open only for children 0-24 months under the care of Leeya and Bethany. The 2-3 year old room will be closed. Many thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and their loving and faithful service.

**Christmas Eve Worship Service:** Please join us for a Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm on Saturday, December 24. The prelude for the Christmas Eve service will begin at 4:40pm and will feature various Riveroaks musicians. The service itself begins at 5:00pm. *“For to us a child is born...”*

**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, but we will have no evening service on January 1.

**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](mailto:jeannekeeton@gmail.com).

**Ladies Spring Bible Study:** Please join us for the Ladies Spring Bible study which begins January 2023 with two meeting options: Monday evening zoom or Tuesday morning at the church. If you were signed up for the Fall Bible study then you are automatically signed up for the Spring Study. The study this semester will be on Joshua using the book by Kathleen Buswell Nielson, Joshua: All's God's Good Promises. The books are no charge. For new sign-ups or questions please contact Tina Moon (901-277-4790).

*For more announcements, please see The Riveroaks Weekly.*

## SERMON NOTES

Revelation 12:1-5a (page 1034)  
Long Live The King!  
Pastor Tommy Lee

An Important Worldview Shift

The Big Story Of The Bible: The Fight For Christmas

What Happens Next?

## THE LORD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

from Revelation 12:10; Isaiah 9:6

Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come!

**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!**

### † HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 208

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

### † PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

## THE LORD CLEANSSES US IN CHRIST

### READING OF THE WORD

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Arant family

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### CONFESSION OF SIN

**Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world to deliver your captive people; surely you have done great things for us; yet we continue to ignore what you have done, turn our backs on what you are doing, and forget about what you will do; forgive us of our sinful apathy; grant to us the assurance of salvation; cause your Holy Spirit to work in us genuine repentance and wholehearted obedience. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever .... *Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin.... Amen!***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Luke 1:76-79; Titus 3:4,5a

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.... When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy.

† **SONG OF FAITH, No. 198**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!”

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND SUPPLICATION**

Elder Jim Newsom

**HIS TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

**ANTHEM**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”  
arr. Ijames/The Adult Choir

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, many years ago.

Heaven cannot hold Him, nor the earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall pass when He comes to reign.  
God Himself became a man, born to pay sin’s price;  
He’s the great Redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
What I can I give him, give Him all my heart.

**THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD**

**SERMON TEXT**

Revelation 12:1-5a

**PREACHING OF GOD’S WORD**

Pastor Tommy Lee

Long Live The King!

† **HYMN OF RESPONSE, No. 211**

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

“Glorious Light”

Getty/The Children’s Ensemble

† **WE CONFESS OUR FAITH**

The Ligonier Statement on Christology

**We confess the mystery and wonder of God made flesh  
and rejoice in our great salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**With the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Son created all things,  
sustains all things, and makes all things new.  
Truly God, He became truly man, two natures in one person.**

**He was born of the Virgin Mary and lived among us.  
Crucified, dead, and buried, He rose on the third day,  
ascended to heaven, and will come again in glory and judgment.**

**For us, He kept the Law, atoned for sin, and satisfied God’s wrath.  
He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe.**

**He is our Prophet, Priest, and King, building His church,  
interceding for us, and reigning over all things.**

**Jesus Christ is Lord; we praise His holy Name forever.**

† **BENEDICTION**

from Mary's Song, Luke 1:46-50

May your soul magnify the Lord, and may your spirit rejoice in God our Savior,  
for he has looked upon the humble estate of his people, and granted his blessing.  
For he who is mighty has done great things for us, and holy is his name.  
His mercy is on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

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

**POSTLUDE**

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

arr. Rutter