

## A Word from Our Pastor: Sunday November 29, 2020

*Lottie Moon* was a brave young woman who left home in 1873 to go share the Gospel with the people of China. But the need was so great and her resources so small, she knew she'd never get the job done alone. She began writing letters to every Baptist agency and church she could think of, begging them to raise support for more missionaries to share the Gospel.

At first there was little response. The resources just weren't available, she was told. It was the late 1800's after all. The American Civil War had just ended and most of her support came from the South which had been so recently devastated by the conflict. The money just wasn't there.

Never one to give up and tired of fighting the men who led the missions agencies, Lottie turned her attention to the women of the churches, asking them to pray and do what they could to raise the funds. "*Could they find a way to send at least one more missionary by next year?*" she challenged.

The Women's Missionary Union (WMU) responded to the challenge, raising just over \$3000 by the end of 1888 – enough to send not just one, but three missionaries to join her in China. Lottie was encouraged! But she also was not done! She picked up her pen again to issue a further set of challenges. "*Why not make every Christmas season a time for sacrificial giving for the cause of the Christ? Why not pray and take an offering every year for the spread of Christ's Gospel to the whole world?*"

That was 1889. And yet, Lottie's story does not end there. She continued her missionary service for another 24 years, until 1912. War was raging in China by then, and with it came the usual hardship of disease, destruction, and famine. Lottie wrote home, urgently begging churches to send more help. People were starving in the streets all around her.

The response came....but it was too little and the need was so great. During the fall and winter of that year, the other missionaries began to notice that "Miss Lottie's" health was failing. She seemed to be

growing thinner and weaker every day. When her health finally broke, they found out why: Lottie had been giving what little money and food she had to feed the starving people around her. She literally had been starving herself to death to minister to them.

When it became clear that she was too weak to keep going, her missionary friends found a nurse for her and made hasty arrangements to send her back to the United States by boat where it was hoped she would recover. But in God's providence, it was not to be. On *Christmas Eve*, 1912 Lottie, who'd slipped into a coma, awoke on board a ship anchored in Kobe Harbor, Japan. She began to whisper the words to the song, "*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so, little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong!*" And with those words on her lips, she passed out of this life into eternity with Jesus.

Six years later, in 1918, the Christmas Offering she'd inspired was re-named in her honor: *The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*. Since that time, Southern Baptists have understood that Christmas and Missions go hand in hand. Lottie's offering has come to symbolize that conviction, providing support for over 5000 full and part time missionaries all over the world.

So what do Christmas and missions have to do with one another? In a word, **Everything!** If you think about it, the Story of Christmas is itself a missionary story. Long before Lottie went to China, another was sent from heaven to give His life so that we might be saved. His name was Jesus!

It is that Spirit – the Spirit of Christ – that drove Lottie. It is that same Spirit that drives us to go, to give and to pray that His Name might be known to all nations! This year's Rockport Christmas Missions Offering can be designated for *The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (for the IMB)*, *HeartCry Missionary Society*, or *Psalm 67 Missions Network*. Will you prayerfully consider how you and your family might give generously this year that those who've never heard may hear and know Christ as Savior and Lord?  
*Praying to see His Name declared to all nations!*

*Pastor Scott*

## THIS WEEK AT ROCKPORT

### SUNDAY - November 29

Worship 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM  
(Please enter/leave wearing a mask at both services)

### Announcements

- **D-group Study of 2 Peter Schedule** for those meeting  
Wednesdays - 12/2; 12/9; 12/16

Prayerfully consider Rockport's Budget Needs

Rockport Weekly Budget Goal.....	\$4,284.00
October Weekly Average.....	\$4,385.55

### This Week's Fighter Verse: Feed Your Soul by Memorizing Scripture!

Each week's '*Fighter Verse*' is meant to help you "fight the good fight" of faith. This year's fighter verses are drawn from our weekly catechism (See "The New City Catechism")

### 2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

### This week's Catechism # 48

#### What is the church?

God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

### Next week's Catechism # 49

#### Where is Christ now?

Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.

"Hope in the Night"  
(John 6:16-21 ; Mark 6:45-52)

I. Apart from Jesus, we quickly find ourselves in \_\_\_\_\_ vv16-18

- Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_
- Though at a distance from Christ, nevertheless His eye \_\_\_\_\_  
Mk 6:47-48 ; Rm 8:14 ; Ps 33:18

II. On our own in the storm, it's hard to make sense of \_\_\_\_\_  
v19

- There will be trouble in this broken world 1 Pet 4:12
- They are terrified Mk 6:49-50

We are terrible at interpreting personal \_\_\_\_\_ Prov 3:5  
It's not until Jesus speaks His word that we begin to know \_\_\_\_\_

III. Hope comes when we hear His \_\_\_\_\_ and welcome Him in  
vv20-21

What makes the difference? It is \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus speaks the Word to do two things:

(1) To \_\_\_\_\_ - "It is I" (ego eimi = I AM)

- Ex 3:14 God says to Moses "\_\_\_\_\_"
- John 8:58, etc.

(2) To \_\_\_\_\_ us "Do not fear"

- Gn 15:1 , 46:3 ; Jer 1:8 ; Lk 1:13 , 2:20 ; Rev 1:17

These two always go together: The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and  
dispelling \_\_\_\_\_

- Isa 43:5 ; Ps 56:3 ; Isa 41:10

John ends with a summary in v21

- Their response: They \_\_\_\_\_
- Instantly they are safely \_\_\_\_\_

**November 29, 2020**

**First Sunday of Advent (Hope)**

■ **Welcome / Mission Moment / Call to Worship**

■ **“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”** .....Hymn 124

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear  
Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all  
sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

■ **“Prepare Him Room”**

Words and Music by Rebecca Elliott and Dave Fournier © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise CCLI #801260

O behold, the mystery now unfolds See the star shine on the  
virgin foretold Angels sing and light up the sky Hope rings out in a  
newborn's cry Swing wide, you ancient gates  
For Christ is born today!

**Prepare Him room Prepare Him room**

**Let the King of glory enter in**

God with us, the promise has come to be This, the one the  
prophets were longing to see In the darkness a blazing light  
To the hungry the words of life His kingdom now is near  
For those with ears to hear

Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem Hear Him knock, don't  
say there's no room in the inn Through the cradle, cross, and grave  
See the love of God displayed Now He's risen and He reigns Praise  
the Name above all names!

■ **Catechism**

■ **“The Solid Rock”**

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and  
righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean  
on Jesus' name.

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand All other ground is  
sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.**

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His  
unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds  
within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him  
be found, Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand  
before the throne

■ **Confession / Lord's Supper**

■ **“When Trials Come”**

Words and Music by Keith & Kristyn Getty © 2005 ThankYou Music CCLI #801260

When trials come no longer fear For in the pain our God  
draws near To fire a faith worth more than gold

**And there His faithfulness is told**

Within the night I know Your peace The breath of God brings  
strength to me And new each morning mercies flow

**As treasures of the darkness grow**

I turn to Wisdom not my own For every battle You have  
known My confidence will rest in You

**Your love endures Your ways are good**

When I am weary with the cost I see the triumph of the cross  
So in its shadow I shall run

**Till You complete the work begun**

One day all things will be made new I'll see the hope You  
called me to And in Your kingdom paved with gold

**I'll praise Your faithfulness of old**

■ **“Behold Our God”**

by Jonathan, Meghan, and Ryan Baird & Stephen Altrogge ©2011 Sovereign Grace Worship; CCLI #801260

Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered  
every grain of sand? Kings and nations tremble at His voice All  
creation rises to rejoice

**Behold our God seated on His throne Come, let us adore Him**

**Behold our King nothing can compare Come, let us adore Him**

Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of  
His words? Who can teach the One who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands? Bearing all the guilt of  
sinful man God eternal, humbled to the grave  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

**You will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)**

■ **Message - “Hope in the Night”** John 6:16-21 - Scott

■ **Closing Song - “Be Thou My Vision”** .....Hymn 382

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart Naught be all else to  
me, save that Thou art Thou my best Thought, by day or by  
night Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word I ever with  
Thee and Thou with me, Lord Thou my great Father, I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight Be Thou my  
Dignity, Thou my Delight. Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my High  
Tower. Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart  
High King of heaven my Treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my Vision O Ruler of all

■ **Benediction**

**Kids' Listening Sheet (11/29/20)**

Message Title: "Hope in the \_\_\_\_\_"

Bible Passages: John 6: \_\_\_\_\_



Key Words: Circle each word every time you hear it.

Boat	Night	Wind	Waves
Jesus	Mountain	Lake	Sea
Fear	Storm	Afraid	Word
Comfort	Sink	Cry	Save

What are three important things you heard during the sermon?

1.

2.

3.

Draw two pictures that show what you heard today:

1.

2.