

December 31, 2023

■ **Welcome / Announcements / Call to Worship**

■ **“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.

■ **Scripture Reading** - Romans 5:1-10

■ **Mission / Prayer / Offering** - Michael Hawkins (Japan)

■ **“Great is Thy Faithfulness”** CCLI #801260

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father. There is no shadow of
turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou has been, Thou forever wilt be

**Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness Morning by
morning new mercies I see All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me**

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest Sun moon,
and stars in their courses above Join with all nature in manifold
witness To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear
presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today, and bright hope
for tomorrow Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

■ **Confession / Lord's Supper:** *The Nicene Creed*

P: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven
and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

C: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

P: He is God from God, light from light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father;
through whom all things were made.

C: For us and our salvation he came down from heaven, was
incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and became
truly human.

P: He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered
death and was buried.

C: On the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures;

P: He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

C: He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

P: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

C: Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified
And who has spoken through the prophets.

P: We believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

C: We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of
the world to come. Amen.

■ **“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

■ **“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”**

Words by Edward Perronet and Music by James Ellor © 1986 WORD MUSIC CCLI License #801260

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all; Bring forth
the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all;
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball, To Him
all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all; To Him all majesty
ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all;

We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!

■ **Message** - The Visit of the Wise Men:

Matthew 2:1-12 - Pastor Warren

■ **“All Glory Be To Christ”** CCLI #801260

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn, All glory be to Christ!

**All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, All glory be to Christ!**

His will be done, His kingdom come, on earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread, praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, All glory be to Christ!

When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be, All glory be to Christ!

■ **Benediction**

2023 Christmas Missions Offering Options

- * **HeartCry Missionary Society**
- * **Lottie Moon Missions Offering**
- * **Psalms 67 Missions Network**
- * **Zizin, Romania Mission Church**
- * **Missionary Volunteer Michael Hawkins to Japan**

Please designate the amount and destination for your gift for missions, along with your regular Rockport offering.

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Pastors/Elders

Scott Lee
Kyle Davis
Warren Kesselring

Worship Leaders

Stuart McMillian
Luke McAllister

Deacons

Don Arbogast	Scott Larson
Kanoa Benz	Herman Meyer
Kurt Boehm	Alex Starkey
Greg Chastain	Mark Stoner
Ray Gawlik	Brad Tompkins

A Word from Pastor Scott:

Sunday December 31, 2023

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now

and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

The Visit of the Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

The rush and hurry of the holiday season is all but done. The only thing left is the less-than-exciting task of cleaning up the mess, taking down the tree, packing away the decorations, and letting things start to get back to “normal.” But what does “normal” mean for a follower of Christ?

Certainly the world will pack “the baby Jesus” away in a box with tissue paper and not give him another thought ‘til November. But we can’t do that! For us the presence of Christ is not limited to a season of temporary “peace and good will” before we jump back to “real” life. For us presence of Christ *is* real life as we seek Him daily! The holidays are only the beginning of a whole year filled with the grace, mercy and love from the One we know is worthy of our praise, adoration and obedience daily.

So my prayer for you and all our church family as we enter the New Year is that it really will be a year of new beginnings as we seek to grow together in the knowledge, fellowship and love of Christ! (2 Pet 3:18). But if we are to do so, let me remind you that a life centered on Christ does not happen by accident. The same God who calls us out of darkness into His Light by faith (Col 1:13), also calls us to continue walking in that Light through the same faith day to day (1 Jn 1:7). And walking, I remind you, is an intentional act.

So what steps are you taking to make sure your “feet” are leading you into an ever deepening walk with Christ? Is it your intention to put Him first this year, and to make knowing and obeying Him your top priority? Let me suggest that the place to begin is by renewing your trust in Him and recommitting to meet with Him daily in His Word and prayer.

Looking forward to being back with you next week,

Pastor Scott

THIS WEEK AT ROCKPORT

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 31, 2023

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:40 AM

Today's Greeters - Dave Winkeler & Anja Woelm

Today's Tellers - Jonathan Gunby & Tren Groat

Today's Nursery - Debbie & Lily McClure

Please Note: Nursery care during worship is for children up through age 2

Prayerfully consider Rockport's Budget Needs

Rockport Weekly Budget Goal	\$5,689.00
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November Weekly Average	\$6,393.54
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Mondays at 7:00pm** - Exercise Class at Rockport.
Please contact Susan Jackson for more information
susanjj1966@gmail.com or (636)375-1113
- **Saturday, January 6 at 9:30am** - Dittman Baby Shower
- **Saturday, January 13 at 8am** - Men's Breakfast - study
of Titus - Standing for Godliness. Bring Food to Share!
- **Women's Workshop is coming...**
Friday & Saturday, January 19-20
- **Wednesday, February 21 - Abolish Abortion Rally** -
We are meeting at the Rotunda within the State Capitol
building @1pm. Reach out to the Benz's, Stevens', or
Adrian Cookson for more info. Carpooling possible.
- **Founder's Conference Midwest** is Tuesday, Feb. 27 -
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024 at FBC Fenton, MO. Sign
up information is in the foyer.
- **Winter Clothing Drive** for the Salvation Army.
Please contact Paula Ottofy, Sherie Eagleburger, or
Marquette Govero if you have donations.

A Word from Pastor Warren

Sunday, December 31, 2023

*"I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will
delight in your statutes; I will not forget your Word." Psalm 119:15-16*

There are many good resolutions to make as we start a new year, but one of the most important ones we hope you will make is a fresh commitment to the regular, personal, Bible reading in 2024. Every day we face temptations to be conformed to this world, so every day we need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom 12:2). The Holy Spirit does this work of mental transformation through God's Word.

What should this regular Bible intake look like? That will look different for each person. But every Christian can benefit from Donald Whitney's three-fold advice: 1) Find the time 2) Find a plan 3) Find a word/phrase/verse to meditate on.

Some will have time to set aside an hour for study and prayer. Others may listen to an audio Bible on a morning commute or catch snatches while the babies nap. The important thing is that you have a plan. If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time. Our plans will differ in when and where, but they will also differ in how we approach Bible reading. Martin Luther recommended reading through the whole Bible every year "to keep the winds of the whole blowing through [your] mind" (HT R.C. Sproul). Especially if you've never done it, that broad exposure may be particularly helpful to you.

Others, however, find they get more with a slower pace that gives room to stop and smell the roses. Our goal is not merely to get through the Bible, but have the Bible get through to us. You may simply want to put a bookmark in one place and read the next section each day.

Whether you are reading fast or slow, read expectantly, trusting God to meet you in His Word. Look for something to take with you, a word or phrase to meditate on that day and put into practice.

For more help, visit rockportbaptist.org/bible-reading-plans

Partnering for your joy – Pastor Warren