

**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.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:**

**(8:00)** **Sanctuary Choir**  
Steven Aldredge

**"When Stars Shone Down"**

O night when stars shone down, the Lord of heav'n was born.  
While the shepherds abiding heard the song heaven was singing:  
Adoramus te, glorificamus te, Rex gloria!  
(We adore You, we glorify You, King of glory!)  
O night when stars shone down, the Son of God was born,  
Angel choirs fill'd the sky o'er Bethlehem, the heav'ns were singing:  
Adoramus te, glorificamus te, Rex gloria!  
Sing Gloria! Adoramus te, glorificamus te, Alleluia! Rex gloria! Alleluia!  
O glorious Lord of light, O Light of our dark night,  
Born to the world that night when stars shone down.  
While heaven was singing: Gloria! Adoramus! Sing glorificamus!  
Sing adoramus Gloria! Rex gloria!

**(11:00)** **Grayson Laughon, violin**  
arr. Craig Duncan

**"The First Noel"**

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.  
They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

**\*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 and gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for all Your goodness to us and over all creation; but above all we give thanks for the gift of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in Whom alone we have life and peace and everlasting joy. In His name, we present this offering to You as a tangible sign of our trust in Your care as Creator and Your grace as Redeemer; and we pray that You will bless and multiply these tokens of our lives, and use them for the sake of Your kingdom throughout the earth; to the glory of Your name. Amen.

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: (See Insert)**  
**"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"** CAROL

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CHORAL AMEN (sung by all):**  
"A-men, A-men, A-men!"

**\*(PLEASE WAIT FOR ROW-BY-ROW DISMISSAL BY THE USHERS)**

**\*POSTLUDE:** **"Angels We Have Heard on High"** arr. Harold DeCou

\*The congregation standing. Please feel free to be seated if you need to do so.  
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## Monthly Financial Report

### GENERAL FUND as of November 30, 2020

Budget to date:	\$ 749,469
Behind Budget:	\$ (42,703)
Year-to-date contributions:	\$ 706,766
Year-to-date expenses:	\$ 659,672
Contributions over Expenses:	\$ 47,094

**YEAR-END DONATIONS:** For tax purposes, year-end donations for 2020 must be received or postmarked by Thursday, December 31. There are several ways to make your donation. You may drop your offering in the mail or offering plate, text an amount to 434-595-3833, or give online at [www.rivermont.org/give](http://www.rivermont.org/give). You may also place your donation in the secure dropbox posted to the far left of the church office entrance.

## Prayer Opportunities

**RECUPERATING:** Greg Alty, Chuck and Anne Spruill, and Ryan Webb

**IN THE HOSPITAL:** Marie Moore

### PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: MIRIAM'S HOUSE

We are grateful for our partnership with Miriam's House, which is located around the corner from Rivermont and is under the leadership of REPC member, Sarah Quarantotto. God is using this ministry to end homelessness in our community by rebuilding and empowering lives of the most vulnerable. Sarah and her team work hard to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and nonrecurring. Pray for ongoing wisdom, resources and compassion for staff and volunteers as they help end physical homelessness and may the gospel so permeate their work that those who are spiritually homeless would find their home in the Lord Jesus. To learn more about their work, go to [www.miriamshouseprogram.org](http://www.miriamshouseprogram.org).

## Contact Us

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*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](http://www.epc.org).*



**RIVERMONT**  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**OUR PASSION:** *the renewing of lives  
through God's compelling love  
in Lynchburg and the world.*

## ORDER of WORSHIP

December 20, 2020  
*Fourth Sunday in Advent*

## Preparation for Worship

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

### THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

Our Father in heaven, Who sent Your only-begotten Son into the world, not to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved: we pray that You would be pleased to pour out Your Spirit upon us; that, with true repentance of our sins, we might take up our cross, deny ourselves, and faithfully follow Jesus Christ; in Whom alone we trust for our salvation, and in Whose holy name we pray. Amen.

### PRELUDE:

#### "O Holy Night"

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!  
Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

Grayson Laughon, violin

Adam, arr. Kristin Campbell

### THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastor Ron Cox

### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively): Psalms 146:1-2

*Praise the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

### \*THE HYMN OF PRAISE: (See Insert)

*"What Child Is This"*

GREENSLEEVES

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Love

8:00 am: Ryan and Christine Pickard

11:00 am: David and Treasa Plude, together with their children Britney,  
Nicolas and Ashley

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

(1 John 4:9-11)

### THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

*"Silent Night! Holy Night"* (vs. 3)

STILLE NACHT

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

### THE CALL TO CONFESSION (responsively): 1 John 1:5-9

*God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

**But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

### THE SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison):

**ALMIGHTY AND HOLY FATHER, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against You, by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts and minds. We have not loved You whole-heartedly, nor our neighbors as ourselves, nor one another as Christ has loved us. We confess our sins of selfishness and pride, ingratitude and envy, faithlessness and willful disobedience; and all the ways that we have displeased You by our forgetfulness of Your love and power. Our only hope is in Your mercy and grace. Forgive us, O Father, according to the promise of the gospel. We look again to Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, Who came into the world to save us from our sins. We plead His blood shed for us, for the cleansing of our sins; we plead His righteousness as our own, by Your grace alone. And through Him, we seek the assurance of Your steadfast love and mercy, and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, so that we may now follow Jesus more faithfully and serve You more fully, living for Him who died and rose again for us, and Who now reigns at Your right hand for us; to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

### THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10; Romans 8:1

### THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:

*"Silent Night! Holy Night"* (vs.4)

STILLE NACHT

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light,  
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

### \*THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*"Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come."*

(Rev 1:4)

### ANTHEM FOR PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

(11:00)

#### *"Away in a Manger"*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.  
Lullaby, baby sweet lullaby.  
The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Lori Flowers – Director; Charis Jantomaso - Accompanist

### THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 136 (see insert for Sermon Notes)

### THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### THE SERMON:

*"Waiting with Love"*

Dr. David Weber

### THE PRAYER FOR THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

### \*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED (in unison)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible;  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who, for us and our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### \*THE GLORIA: *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* (refrain)

Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o, Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o!  
(meaning, "Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14)

GLORIA