

***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: #200**

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CHORAL AMEN (sung by all):**

"A-men, A-men, A-men!"

***POSTLUDE:**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

arr. Harold DeCoul

*The congregation standing. Please feel free to be seated if you need to do so.
Lyrics and music reproduced under CCLI#64526.

Prayer Opportunities

ONGOING PRAYER: Kenneth (Stick) Haun, Michael Herbert and Westray Nowlin

RECUPERATING: Allan Howerton, Walker Pennock, and Chuck Spruill

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: RUSH HOMES

Rush Homes provide affordable and accessible housing opportunities for low-income people with disabilities in Lynchburg and surrounding communities. They have three housing developments and a combination of single-family and multi-family homes that house over 275 people in our community. Rivermont has a strong connection to Rush Homes and we give thanks to God for the advocacy and support they provide for the disabled and disadvantaged in our community. Pray that God will continue to provide additional properties they can turn into housing for the disabled. For more on their ministry, go to www.rushhomes.org.

Prayer & Care

If you have a need or prayer request, please share that need through the Rivermont website at rivermont.org/prayer. You may also email janet@rivermont.org. All requests are confidential.

Welcome to Rivermont!

Whether you are new to Lynchburg or new to our church, we are so grateful to the Lord that He has brought you to us this morning. We would love to connect with you more personally and we invite you to fill out a Digital Connect Card by scanning the QR code into your mobile device. You can also fill out a Connect Card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.



Monthly Financial Report

GENERAL FUND as of November 30, 2021

Budget to date:	\$ 774,496
Behind Budget:	\$ 9,237
Year-to-date contributions:	\$ 765,259
Year-to-date expenses:	\$ 728,699
Contributions above Expenses:	\$ 36,560

YEAR-END DONATIONS: For tax purposes, year-end donations for 2021 must be received or postmarked by Friday, December 31. There are several ways to make your donation. You may drop your offering in the mail or offering plate in the Narthex, set up a bank ACH transfer, or transfer money securely online by going to our website, www.rivermont.org, and selecting the Give tab. You may also put your donation in the black mailbox outside the office entrance by Dec. 31, as the office will be closed but the mailbox will be monitored. Those needing an update on their donations before the end of the year, please contact Kelly Nelson at the office, or by email: Kelly@rivermont.org.

Coming Up This Week

For more information, please visit rivermont.org/events

Sunday, December 19-Fourth Sunday of Advent	Wednesday, December 22
8:00 am Prayer for the Services (Family Room)	6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir
8:30 am Worship Service	
9:45 am Sunday School	Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
9:45 am 20 Somethings+ Life Group	5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
9:45 am College Hour (CO House)	7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Communion
11:00 am Worship Service	9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Communion
12:30 pm 20 Somethings+ Lunch on the Run (Market at Main, 904 Main St.)	Sunday, December 26
4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)	8:00 am Prayer for the Services (Family Room)
	8:30 am Worship Service
Monday, December 20	11:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Prayer Group (Room 206)	4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)
Tuesday, December 21	
6:30 am Dawn Patrol Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall & via Zoom)	

Contact Us

MAIL: 2424 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503	EMAIL: rhonda@rivermont.org
PHONE: (434) 846-3441	WEB: www.rivermont.org
HOURS: Monday - Friday 8:30AM-5:00PM	FACEBOOK: facebook.com/rivermontepc
	TWITTER: twitter.com/rivermontepc

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.



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

ORDER of WORSHIP

December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of 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:

"Glory to the Newborn King"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

"Lo! How a Rose"

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Grayson Laughon, violin

Carillon Handbells

arr. Dan R. Edwards

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastor Mike Palombo

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

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: #213

"What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Love

8:30 am: Larry and Carol Cole

11:00 am: Ross and Sherry Meyer together with their daughters

Catherine and Lindsey

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 wholeheartedly, 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: 1 John 4:9-10

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)

(Children pre-K through first grade may be dismissed for Children's Church to room, #115.)

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30 (page 830)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON:

"Kingdom Talents"

Dr. David Weber

THE PRAYER FOR A 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)

GLORIA

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

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:

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

Carillon Handbells

arr. Kevin McChesney

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!

Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,

Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the lambkin blest."

In Bethlehem they found Him; Joseph and Mary mild,

Seated by the manger, watching the holy Child.

*THE DOXOLOGY:

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.

OLD HUNDREDT