

***THE DOXOLOGY:**

OLD HUNDREDETH

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):**

Dear Father, in response to Your great gift to us, we offer ourselves to You, with thanksgiving and joy. Accept these tokens of our lives; bless and multiply them for the spread of the gospel, the strengthening of Your Church, and the increase of Your kingdom, to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: #203**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

***THE BENEDICTION**

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

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

***POSTLUDE: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

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

Prayer & Care

If you have a need or prayer request, you can share your needs on a Connect Card, which can be found in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate or one of the designated prayer boxes located outside the Library and in the Locke Commons. You may also submit a prayer request at rivermont.org/prayer or email janet@rivermont.org. All requests are confidential.

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Ways to give:

1. By placing your offering in the offering plates.
2. By texting an amount to 434-595-3833; follow the prompts.
3. Online at www.rivermont.org/give.
4. By mailing a check to REPC, 2424 Rivermont Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503.

YEAR-END DONATIONS: For tax purposes, year-end donations for 2022 must be received or postmarked by Saturday, December 31. The church office will be closed Dec. 26 - Jan. 2 however the outside black mailbox will be monitored during this time to receive donations. 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.

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.



Next Steps to Connect:

We invite you to take some additional steps to get more connected to this church body.

- Attend Sunday School classes at 9:45 am (rivermont.org/sundayschool).
- Join us for dinner and Bible Studies on Wednesday nights (rivermont.org/rfn). This will resume on January 11, 2023.
- Attend men's, women's, or youth Bible studies and events throughout the year.
- Attend the next Getting to Know Rivermont class beginning on January 8, 2023. For more information and to sign up go to rivermont.org/gtkr.

Coming Up This Week

For more information, please visit rivermont.org/events

Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Prayer for the Services (Family Room)
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am College Coffee (CO House)
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)
 6:30 pm A Service of Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 14

9:00 am Preschool
 12:00 pm Elder Pool Luncheon (Country Gardens)
 5:00 pm Carillon
 6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, December 15

7:00 pm 20 Somethings+ Prayer Meeting for Missions (Tessa Sydnor's Home)

Monday, December 12

9:00 am Preschool
 10:00 am Prayer Group (206)

Tuesday, December 13

6:26 am HS Girls' 626 (Chick-fil-A, Hobby Lobby)
 6:30 am Dawn Patrol Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall & via Zoom)
 9:00 am Preschool
 11:00 am Preschool Christmas Program
 12:00 pm 60 Plus Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Prayer for the Services (Family Room)
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am College Coffee (CO House)
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)
 5:30 pm Youth 9th-12th Grade Christmas Party (Meyer Home)

Contact Us

MAIL: 2424 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503
PHONE: (434) 846-3441
HOURS: Monday - Friday 8:30AM-5:00PM

EMAIL: rhonda@rivermont.org
WEB: www.rivermont.org
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 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation for Worship

As the Prelude begins, prepare your heart for worship and please silence your mobile devices.

THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

Gracious and ever-faithful God, over the centuries Your people have prayed Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus, come! As we continue our journey this Advent season be among us with Your guiding Spirit. Open our eyes that we might see, open our ears that we might truly worship in spirit and truth Your Son Who is coming again. In anticipation we pray this in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

PRELUDE:

(8:30) **Doug and Julie Haley, Vicky Pogue**

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly/Gentle Shepherd" arr. Rouse/Gaither

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;

Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.

Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing,

Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new

Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:

Christ, the Babe, was born for all! Christ, the Babe, was born for all!

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us, for we need You to help us find our way.

Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us, for we need Your strength from day to day.

There's no other we can turn to Who can help us face another day.

Gentle Shepherd come and lead us, for we need to You to help us find our way.

(11:00)

"Dear Little Stranger" **Chapel Choir**

Jim Ailor, J. S. Bach

Dear little stranger, asleep in a manger, Jesus, our wonderful Savior is born.

There's none to receive Him, none to believe Him,

None but the angels are watching this morn.

Dear little stranger, asleep in a manger. No downy pillow under Your sweet head.

But with the lowly, our Savior most holy, how silently You sleep upon Your bed.

Angels descending, and over Him bending, chanting a tender and silent refrain.

A wonderful story telling His glory unto the shepherds on Bethlehem's plain.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Jesus is born.

Lori Flowers – Director; Sandra Landry – Accompanist

WELCOME:

Pastor Brett Eubank

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalms 97:1; 98:7-9 (responsively)

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;

Let the many coastlands be glad!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD,

For He comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #195

"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

ANTIOCH

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Joy

8:30 am: Sarah Stephen, Else Frazier and Jenny Milhoan

11:00 am: Carol Thompson and Aline (Didi) Bowles-Jenkins

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!" (verses 5 & 6)

TRURO

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!

Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!

Thy Holy Spirit guide us on until the glorious crown be won.

(11:00) ANTHEM FOR PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

Cherub Choir

"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

arr. Vicki Hancock Wright

Rise up, shepherd, and follow the star!

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

It will lead to the place where Christ was born. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow! Follow! Rise up shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Leave your sheep, leave your lambs, now go find Jesus.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow the star!

Amy Hall – Director; Sandra Landry – Accompanist

*THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

(Revelation 1:4)

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

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: John 16:16-24 (page 902)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON:

"The Joy in Sorrow"

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 MOMENT FOR MISSION:

Neal Massey, Executive Director of No Walls

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.

THE RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

(8:30)

"Dear Little Stranger"

Chapel Choir

Jim Ailor, J. S. Bach

(11:00)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Sanctuary Choir

arr. Dan Forrest

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, born the king of angels,

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation! Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.

Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Miriam Amos and Hadley Hall – Accompanists