

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison):**

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: (Please see insert)**

"From the Squalor"

Townend

***THE BENEDICTION**

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

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

***POSTLUDE:**

(8:30)

"Joy to the World"

Rivermont Youth Strings

Handel

(11:00)

"Lift Up Your Heads"

Edward G. Mead

*The congregation standing. Please feel free to be seated if you need to do so.

Youth strings participating in worship this morning:

Danielle Boyers, Miriam Boyers, Sophia Boyers, Preston Laughon, Anna Grace McCloskey, Elizabeth McCloskey, Margaret McCloskey, Mary McCloskey, Kate Nowlin, Broughton Webb, Ruthie Yeoman, Stella Yeoman, Weston Yeoman

PARKING AND OUR NEIGHBORS: With the blessings of wondrous attendance on Sunday mornings, one practical challenge each Lord's Day is parking. We occasionally block a neighbor's driveway or damage a yard. Graciously, Randolph College allows use of three parking lots: Maier Museum and the Upper Gym lot (accessed from Quinlan) and the Lower Gym Lot (accessed from Norfolk Avenue). Please serve one another in love and respect our neighbors by allowing a little extra time on Sunday mornings and by parking in designated areas.

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. All requests are confidential.

Emergency Phone Line

For Acute Illness and Death

Evenings and Weekends: (434) 426-3774

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00: (434) 846-3441

Please leave a message for an appropriate response.

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 beginning on January 10, 2024 (rivermont.org/rfn).
- Attend men's, women's, or youth Bible studies and events throughout the year.
- Attend the next Getting to Know Rivermont Class beginning January 7, 2024. For more information and to register go to rivermont.org/gtkr.

Coming Up This Week

For more information, please visit rivermont.org/events

Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 11:00 am Westminster Canterbury Service
- 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)
- 6:30 pm The Vivaldi Gloria (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 11

- 7:00 am No Walls Bible Study (Quinlan)
- 9:00 am Preschool
- 9:30 am Story Time (Youth House) 🏰
- 10:00 am Prayer Group (Country Gardens)
- 11:00 am Caregivers' Support Group (Room 203)
- 1:00 pm Jesse Wasserman Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 pm Chess Club (Youth House) 🏰
- 6:00 pm Art with Amy (Youth House) 🏰

Tuesday, December 12

- 6:26 am High School 626 (Chick-fil-A)
- 6:30 am Dawn Patrol Men's Bible Study (FH)
- 9:00 am Preschool

Tuesday, December 12, continued

- 12:00 pm Sixty Plus Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
- 1:00 pm Shepherding & Care Meeting (Room 203)

Wednesday, December 13

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 5:15 pm Carillon
- 6:30 pm Missionary Prayer & Care (Pastors' Lounge)

Thursday, December 14

- 10:00 am Community Bible Study

Saturday, December 16

- 10:00 am Beginner Pickleball (Riverside Park) 🏓

Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)

🏰 = In Rivermont for Rivermont Event (Members Welcome!)
For more information, please visit rivermont.com

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 MISSION: *For the glory of God and the good of His people, REPC seeks to follow Jesus Christ in His mission to awaken gospel renewal through Spirit-empowered worship, discipleship and mission, beginning in the Rivermont community and extending to the ends of the earth.*

ORDER of WORSHIP

December 10, 2023

Second 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:

Redeemer God, come as we seek to open our hearts, creating a welcome space for You to abide. Awaken us from our laziness and rescue us from that which distracts us from knowing Your grace and love. Inspire our preparation and guide our worship that our Advent waiting might lead us to Your throne, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE:

(8:30)

"O Come, Little Children"

"We Three Kings"

"Long, Long Ago"

"Silent Night"

Rivermont Youth Strings

Folk Song

Hopkins

Bayly

Gruber

Directed by Ginger Paris; Ann Knight – piano

(11:00)

"There Is a Song in the Air"

New Song

Sorenson and Holland

There's a song in the air. There's a star in the sky.
There's a mother's deepest prayer. There's a Baby's tiny cry.
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For in Bethlehem is born a King.
There's a clamor of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's baby Boy is the Lord of all the earth!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, Alleluia,
For in Bethlehem is born a King. There is a song. There is a star.
There is a Christmas hope that meets us where we are,
Offering peace to all the world. Iniquity's curse now is reversed,
Lifting us from despair, turning paupers into heirs.
There is a song, there is a song in the air!
In the light of that star lies a heavenly cure,
And that glorious angel song has swept over all the world.
Ev'ry heart is aflame and the beautiful sing
That the earth has now received her King.
Can you feel the rhythm, can you feel the beat?
Can you feel the stomping of the angels' feet?
Can you hear the descant of a million strong?
Can you hear the roaring of a mighty throng?
Through a displaced Child we are reconciled.
Through a homeless King the earth has heard the angels sing!
Ellese Frazier – Director; Miriam Amos - piano

WELCOME:

Pastor Shane Whelan

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 66:1-2 (responsively)

Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool;

What is the house that you would build for Me, and what is the place of My rest?

All these things My hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD.

But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word."

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #196

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE

8:30 am: Annabelle Pechmann

11:00 am: John, Amy and Daisy Szymczyk

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him, we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
(Romans 5:1-2)

THE CALL TO CONFESSION: Isaiah 1:2-4, 18

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Isaiah 40:1-2

*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" (vs. 2 & 3)

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice,
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

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

Cherub Choir

"Ring Out the Bells"

Mark Patterson

Ring out the bells, ring out the bells, Jesus Christ is born!
Ring for the shepherds standing near, telling them all to have no fear
For Christ is born, Christ is born, the Prince of Peace is here!
Ring for the world that longs to hear: peace, love and joy have
Conquered fear, for Christ is born, Christ is born, the Prince of Peace is here!
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: Hebrews 11:7 (page 1007)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON:

"Faith's Effects"

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)

MOMENT FOR MISSION:

Katherine Colquitt, Rivermont Women's Ministry

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)

"What Child Is This?"

Rivermont Youth Strings

English Carol

(11:00)

"For Unto Us a Child Is Born"

Sanctuary Choir

Hallquist, arr. Fettke

(Based on Isaiah 9:6)

For unto us a Child is born, for unto us a Son is given,
And the kingdom shall rest on His shoulder, allelu, alleluia!
And He shall be called Wonderful Couns'lor, the Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, for His kingdom shall ever increase. Alleluia!
For unto us is born this day, born on this day in the city of David,
A Savior Who is Christ the Lord, sing allelu, alleluia!

*THE DOXOLOGY:

OLD HUNDRETH

**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.**