

December 24 - Christmas Eve

8:30 am & 11:00 am - Worship Services
9:45 am - Fellowship Sunday
No Children's Church or Sunday School

5:00 pm - Family Worship Service
(Especially for families with young children)

7:00 pm & 9:00 pm - Traditional Service with Communion featuring the
Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra

Sunday, December 31

8:30 am & 11:00 am - Worship Services
9:45 am - Church-Wide Sunday School in the Sanctuary
Adult Sunday School Teacher Training (Room 203/204)

PARKING AND OUR NEIGHBORS: With the blessings of growing 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.

YEAR-END DONATIONS: For tax purposes, year-end donations for 2023 must be received or postmarked by Sunday, December 31. The church office will be closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 1, but the outside black mailbox at the top of the ramp 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.

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.

Emergency Phone Line

For Acute Illness and Death

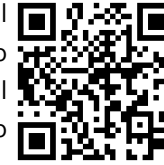
Evenings and Weekends: (434) 426-3774

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. Rivermont Fellowship Night will resume 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 on 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 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)

Monday, December 18

7:00 am No Walls Bible Study (Quinlan)
9:30 am StoryTime (Youth House) 🏠
10:00 am Prayer Group (Library)
5:30 pm Chess Club (Youth House) 🏠

Tuesday, December 19

6:30 am Dawn Patrol Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, December 20

6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Missionary Prayer & Care (Pastors' Lounge)

Saturday, December 23

9:00 am Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:00 am Pickleball in the Park (Riverside Park) 🏠

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Fellowship Hour
11:00 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Worship Service
7:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
9:00 pm Worship Service with Communion



🏠 = In Rivermont for Rivermont Event (Members Welcome!)

For more information, please visit inrivermont.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 17, 2023

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.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: 1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:12

*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:

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

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.

TRURO

*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.

THE RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Carillon Handbells

arr. Matthew Compton

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*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 HUNDREDTH

*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:

"Overture from 'Unto Us a Child is Born' "

J. S. Bach

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

Carillon Handbells

arr. Matthew Compton

"A Night at the Manger"

Lully, lullah, thou little tiny Child, bye bye, lully, lully.

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day?

This poor Youngling for whom we do sing, "Bye bye, lully, lully"?

Herod the king, in his raging charged he hath this day

His men of might in his own sight all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee and ever morn' and day,

For thy parting neither say nor sing, "Bye bye, lully, lully."

Lully, lullah, thou little tiny Child, bye bye, lully, lully.

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary.

Pastor Ron Cox

THE SERMON:

"The Journey of Faith"

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.

ANTIOCH

WELCOME:

*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"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Joy

8:30 am: Justin and Kelly Parks along with their daughter, Reagan

11:00 am: Branson and Kendall Terrell

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)