

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

Almighty Father of everlasting love, we give You thanks for the gift of life, for the blessings of Your providence, and for the promise of Your presence with us through Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the power of Your Spirit. We praise You for all the spiritual blessings which You have lavished upon us through Your Son, our Savior – for the gift of new birth, new life, the forgiveness of our sins, our adoption as Your children, and the hope of glory! All praise, honor, and glory be to You, the sovereign God of life and life everlasting. 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 DeCou

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

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

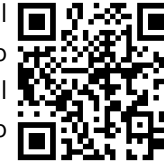
Evenings and Weekends: (434) 426-3774

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.

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

Prelude begins 30 minutes prior to the service

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)

Church Office Closed

December 25 - January 1

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](https://www.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 24, 2023

Fourth 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:

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:

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

In the bleak midwinter, frost wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.
Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Whitney Cairns, harp

Holst, arr. Cairns

WELCOME:

Pastor Brett Eubank

*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: #214

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Love

**8:30 am: Matthew and Kelli Johnson along with their children,
Konner and Victoria**
11:00 am: Jonathan Tan

"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!" (verse 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: 1 John 1:5-9 (responsively)

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

*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:

"Silent Night! Holy Night!" (verse 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."
(Revelation 1:4)*

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:11-12 (Page 1008)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON:

"Against All Odds"

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.

THE RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

"What Child Is This?"

Whitney Cairns, harp

Trad. English, arr. Cairns

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.
Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.
So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

*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.**