

## In Appreciation

Thank you to all who provided gifts for the Angel Tree. We provided gifts for 71 children in 30 families of Fostering Hope, No Walls and the neighborhood. May God use these gifts to point every heart to the most precious gift, Jesus Christ.

Thank you to the many who baked and brought Christmas cookies and goodies for our Missional Small Groups to share with the neighbors we are meeting and inviting into gospel relationships. God provided abundantly for our needs and we trust Him to use every sugary calorie for His glory!

Thank you to all those who gave their time ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. As always, we are so grateful to those who so eagerly sign up each year. The blessings of the funds you helped raise go beyond Christmas and are counted on throughout the year to serve those in our area who are in much need. Sincerely, Brian and Lyn Nash

**YEAR-END DONATIONS:** For tax purposes, year-end donations for 2024 must be received or postmarked by Tuesday, 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 by phone (434-846-3441), or by email: [Kelly@rivermont.org](mailto: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](http://rivermont.org/prayer) or email [janet@rivermont.org](mailto: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](http://rivermont.org/sundayschool)).
- Join us for dinner and Bible Studies on Wednesday nights starting January 8, 2025. To make reservations go to [rivermont.org/rfn](http://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 on January 26, 2025. For more information and to register, go to [rivermont.org/gtkr](http://rivermont.org/gtkr).

## Coming Up This Week

For more information, please visit [rivermont.org/events](http://rivermont.org/events)

### Sunday, December 29

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

### Sunday, January 5 - Epiphany Sunday

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

### Monday, December 30 - January 1

Church Office Closed



= In Rivermont for Rivermont Event (Members Welcome!)

For more information, please visit [inrivermont.com](http://inrivermont.com)

### General Fund as of November 30, 2024

Budget to Date:	\$ 913,291
Behind Budget:	\$ 45,224
Year-to-date Contributions:	\$ 868,067
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$ 861,842
Contributions Behind Expenses:	\$ 6,225

## Contact Us

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

**EMAIL:** [rhonda@rivermont.org](mailto:rhonda@rivermont.org)  
**WEB:** [www.rivermont.org](http://www.rivermont.org)  
**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/rivermontepc](https://facebook.com/rivermontepc)  
**TWITTER:** [twitter.com/rivermontepc](https://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](http://www.epc.org).*



**OUR MISSION:** *For the glory of God and the good of His people, REPC seeks to follow Jesus Christ to awaken gospel renewal through Spirit-empowered worship, discipleship and mission, beginning in our church, extending to our neighborhood and our world.*

## ORDER of WORSHIP

December 29, 2024

First Sunday in Christmastide

## Preparation *for* Worship

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

### THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

Almighty God, You have poured on us the new light of Your Incarnate Word: may that same light burn in our hearts and shine in our lives; and may that light be evident this morning as we gather to worship You in glory. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### \*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: 2 Corinthians 3:1-18 (Page 965)

### THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON: *"Rooted Worship"* 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: **Else Frazier, piano**

*"I Wonder As I Wander"*

arr. Mark Hayes

I wonder as I wander out under the sky how Jesus, the Savior, had come for to die  
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I. I wonder as I wander out under the sky.  
When Mary birthed Jesus, t'was in a cow's stall  
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high in God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
And the promise of ages, it then did recall.  
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing; a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,  
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,  
He surely could have it, for He was the King!

### \*THE DOXOLOGY:

OLD HUNDREDT

**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):

**Almighty Father of everlasting love, we give You thanks and praise that, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of woman, born under the law, that we might be redeemed from the curse of sin to live as Your beloved children! We offer ourselves to You as we offer these gifts which we have received from Your hand. May Your glory fill the earth, may all the peoples praise You, and may all the world come to know that Jesus Christ is the Savior Whom You have sent into the world. Amen.**

### \*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE:#230

*"Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"* QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

### \*THE BENEDICTION

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

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

\*POSTLUDE: *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*

arr. Harold DeCou

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

*"Gesu Bambino"*

Noah Caldwell, organ

Pietro A. Yon

When blossoms flower e'er 'mid the snows, upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas rose, the King of love and light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.  
Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas rose, its King of love and light.  
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell.  
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

### WELCOME:

Rev. Shawn Morrison

### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP: John 1:1-5, 14 (responsively)

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

**He was in the beginning with God.**

*All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.*

**In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

### \*THE INVOCATION

### \*THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #225

*"Once in Royal David's City"*

IRBY

### \*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

### \*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: 1 Peter 1:3-5

### \*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE: #207

*"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"*

IN DULCI JUBILO