

***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: #213**

"What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

***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.

Incident Weather Policy:

The final decision to cancel on-campus Sunday worship services will be announced by 6:00 am on Sunday. An announcement will be published on the church website, the church's voicemail, and WSET-TV; and a church-wide email and text will be sent. If the 8:30 am service is cancelled, on-campus Sunday School is also cancelled. When on-campus activities are cancelled, the REPC staff will attempt to provide online worship. Wednesday music rehearsals will be held at the discretion of the Director of Music Ministry and notifications will be sent by email and text.

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 starting January 8, 2025. To make reservations go to 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.

Coming Up This Week

For more information, please visit rivermont.org/events

Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)
- 5:00 pm Sermon Q & A (Chapel)
- 6:00 pm Youth SNL (Youth Center)

Monday, December 9

- 7:00 am No Walls Bible Study (Room 201)
- 9:00 am Preschool
- 10:00 am Prayer Group (Country Gardens)
- 11:00 am Story Time (Room 207) 🏰
- 11:00 am Caregivers' Support Group (Family Room)
- 5:30 pm Chess Club (Youth Center) 🏰
- 6:00 pm Art with Amy (Country Gardens) 🏰

Tuesday, December 10

- 6:26 am High School 626 (Biscuitville)
- 6:30 am Dawn Patrol Men's Bible Study (Room 203)
- 9:00 am Preschool

Tuesday, December 10, continued

- 10:00 am Sixty Plus Cookies & Carols (Cheatham Center)
- 11:00 am Preschool Christmas Program (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 11

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 4:30 pm Rivermont Chimes
- 5:15 pm Cherub & Chapel Choirs
- 6:30 pm Messiah Orchestra Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 14

- 9:00 am Messiah Orchestra Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Beginner Pickleball (Riverside Park) 🏰
- 12:00 pm No Walls Second Saturday Picnic (Gospel Community Church College Hill)

Sunday, December 15 - 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)
- 5:00 pm Sermon Q & A (Chapel)
- 7:00 pm Handel's Messiah (Sanctuary)

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

Contact Us

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PHONE: (434) 846-3441
HOURS: Monday - Friday 8:30AM-5:00PM

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WEB: www.rivermont.org
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/rivermontepc
X: x.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 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 8, 2024

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)

"Impressions on 'Sing We Now of Christmas' "

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Carillon Handbells

arr. Matthew Compton

(11:00)

"Glory to the Newborn King"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hadley Hall - Director

Praise Ringers

arr. Dan R. Edwards

WELCOME:

Dr. David Weber

*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 INVOCATION

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #196

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE

8:30 am: Leif and Brittney Aagaard

11:00 am: Katherine Wheeler and Willie Moses

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 PRAYER OF ADORATION AND 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:

New Song

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, arr. Fettke

Mary, did you know that your baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby Boy has come to make you new;
This Child that you've delivered will soon deliver you?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby Boy has walked where angels trod,
And when you kiss your little Baby, you've kissed the face of God?
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again,
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby Boy was heaven's perfect Lamb,
And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great I Am?

Else Frazier – Director; Ashley Plude – 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: 2 Peter 3:14-18 (page 1019)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON:

"Becoming Like Jesus"

Pastor Shane Whelan

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:

Lori Flowers

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)

"Ding, Dong! Merrily on High"

Carillon Handbells

arr. Matthew Compton

Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing;
Ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing:
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

(11:00)

"Carol of the Bells"

Hadley Hall - Director

Praise Ringers

arr. Kevin McChesney

*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 HUNDREDETH