

Welcome to Rivermont!

Whether you are new to Lynchburg or new to 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 Connect Card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

General Fund as of November 30, 2019

Budget to date:	\$749,469
Behind Budget:	\$106,452
Year-to-date contributions:	\$643,016
Year-to-date expenses:	\$695,891
Contributions under Expenses:	\$ 52,875

YEAR-END DONATIONS: For tax purposes, year-end donations for 2019 must be received or postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. There are several ways to make your donation. You may drop your offering in the mail or offering plate, set up a bank ACH transfer, or transfer money securely online by going to our website, www.rivermont.org, and selecting the Give tab. Those needing an update on their donations before the end of the year, please contact Kelly at the office, or by email: Kelly@rivermont.org.

Coming Up This Week

Sunday, December 22 *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

8:00 am Prayer for the Services (Family Room)
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:30 am 20-Somethings+ Coffee Corner (Locke Commons)
 9:45 am Sunday School
 9:45 am College Hour
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)

Monday, December 23

10:00 am Prayer Group (Room 202)
 10:30 am Caregivers' Group Meeting (Room 204)

Tuesday, December 24 *Christmas Eve Services*

5:00 pm Family Worship Service
 7:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
 9:00 pm Worship Service with Communion

Wednesday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

Church Offices Closed

Thursday, December 26

Church Offices Closed

Friday, December 27

Church Offices Closed

6:30 pm 20-Somethings+ Food and Fun (Neiderer Home)

Sunday, December 29

8:00 am Prayer for the Services (Family Room)
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:30 am 20-Somethings+ Coffee Corner (Locke Commons)
 9:45 am Sunday School Open House (Cheatham)
 9:45 am College Hour
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Chapel)

PARKING AND OUR NEIGHBORS: As we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, this is a friendly reminder not to block our neighbors' driveways when we park for worship. Please also reserve closer parking for our visitors and senior saints, particularly during this Christmas season. Graciously, Randolph College allows use of their parking lots: Maier Museum and the Upper Gym lot. Also, Magnolia Foods has graciously allowed use of their parking lot. Thank you!

Contact Us

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RIVERMONT
 EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR PASSION: *the renewing of lives through God's compelling love in Lynchburg and the world.*

ORDER of WORSHIP

December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday in Advent

*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.

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison):

Almighty and gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for all Your goodness to us and over all creation; but above all we give thanks for the gift of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in Whom alone we have life and peace and everlasting joy. In His name, we present this offering to You as a tangible sign of our trust in Your care as Creator and Your grace as Redeemer; and we pray that You will bless and multiply these tokens of our lives, and use them for the sake of Your Kingdom throughout the earth; to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: #213

"What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

*THE BENEDICTION

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

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!"

*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.

Sermon Notes

"Longing to Trust"
Psalm 146

1. Longing to Trust in a Person

2. Longing to Trust in a Promise

3. Longing to Trust in a Purpose

Prayer Opportunities

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: Tessa Sydnor - Teach Beyond/ Black Forest Academy in Germany

Praise God for Tessa's first four months of teaching, for the opportunity to teach literature next semester, and for time with her family as her brother Noah marries Angie Friesen in Arizona on December 28. Pray for protection of her health and for her potential roommate Annajane who is struggling in her fundraising.

Preparation for Worship

As you enter the Sanctuary, 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:

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

"Mary, Did You Know"

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?
When you kiss your little Baby, you kiss 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 would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping Child you're holding is the great I Am!

Carillon Handbells

arr. Karen L. Buckwalter

arr. Anna Laura Page

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastor Ron Cox

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively): Psalm 146:1-2

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: #229

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Love

8:30 am: TJ and Lee Smiley together with their children
James and Susanna

11:00 am: John and Jill Fees

"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 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!" (vs. 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, by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts and minds. We have not loved You wholeheartedly, 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: Colossians 1:13-14

*THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE

"Silent Night! Holy Night!" (vs. 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."

(Rev 1:4)

Even as the Lord greets us in His word let us greet one another.

NEW SONG:

"One Small Child"

Meece, arr. Molly Ijames

Noah Caldwell – piano

THE INTERLUDE:

During the interlude, children ages 4 to first grade may be dismissed for Children's Church to the Orange Room #115.

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 146 (page 525)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON:

"Longing to Trust"

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:

"Shepherd's Echo Carol"

Sanctuary Choir

arr. John Leavitt

While by my sheep I watch'd at night glad tidings brought an angel bright:
How great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.
There shall be born, so He did say, in Bethlehem a Child today.
How great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.
Lord, evermore to me be nigh, then shall my heart be fill'd with joy!
How great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high. Alleluia!