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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE  
Fourth Sunday of Advent at 11:00 A.M. - Love  
December 24, 2023 - Pastor: Rev. John Bright

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Liturgist: Lois Miller      Organist: Pam Wilson      Acolyte: Joanne Corley  
Greeters: Dale Dixon & Connie Madison/ Chris Shumaker & Thomas Gardner  
Ushers: Kirby Miller & Dale Dixon      Music Leader: Tyrone Franklin

Prelude: “Manger Carols” – by Lani Smith O/P Duet by Pam & Pam

Bringing In the Light of Christ: Joanne Corley

Welcome & Announcements: Lois Miller

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Love/Reader/Barbara Austin  
After the reading and the candle is lit, please join us to read...

*“Dear God, you loved us so much that you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to live and die for us. We pray that you remind us this week of your love for us and that we may share your love with others. Let us live in the reality of your free and eternal love. Amen.”*

Greeting Our Brothers and Sisters

\*Opening Hymn: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (UMH 218)

Joys & Concerns: Lois Miller

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer: Rev. John Bright

Anthem: “Do You Hear What I Hear?” Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne

Children’s Message: Pastor John

Collection of Tithes and Offerings: Kirby Miller & Dale Dixon

\*Doxology – “My Tribute” (UMH 99)

\*Offertory Prayer: Rev. John Bright

\*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles’ Creed (UMH 881)

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 Rev. John Bright

Sermon: “The Fine Art of the Double-Take” Rev. John Bright

Closing Hymn – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (UMH 230)

\* Benediction: Rev. John Bright

\* Postlude: “Gloria” – by Hugh S. Livingston

(\*Please stand if you are able.)

**OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS**

Gail Dagenhart, Ann Hechler, Kim Davis, Jean Miller, Mary Hicks, Mary Ann and Clyde Howard, Evelyn Steele, Geneva Olgers, Phyllis and Sara Nelson, Regina Humphrey, John Brockman, Becky Torrence, Dot Gay, Ben Williams and ML Yuhas.

**KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS**

- Our Weekday School – Margo Keeles (Director), our teachers, students and families.
- Our community of Varina and all the residents, our churches in our neighborhoods, schools, students, teachers, administrators and all employees.
- Our state of Virginia, our residents and leaders.
- The United States of America, our citizens and leaders, the countries of the world, their people and leaders. May God bless us all and His will be done.
- The citizens and leaders of Ukraine, for their safety and for the end of the war.
- People in Turkey and Syria. The people of Maui, Hawaii.
- The Jewish people in Israel and around the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO OUR VISITORS: We welcome you to Laurel Hill and hope that you feel at home. We invite you to join Laurel Hill if you do not have a church home. Please call our church office at 804-795-2772. You will find our Laurel Hill family both warm and eager to welcome you into our fellowship.

OUR CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be this evening at 7:00 P.M. We will receive Holy Communion and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Come and bring your family and friends. There will be a story time with PJ for the children. The little ones are welcome to wear their pajamas to the service.

THE OFFICE AND WEEKDAY SCHOOL will be closed the week of December 25<sup>th</sup> through December 29<sup>th</sup>. If you have an emergency, please call Barbara, at home, and she will contact someone to return your call.

ON JANUARY 7, 2024, PASTOR JOHN WILL BEGIN A FOUR-PART SERMON SERIES - “Stronger Faith.” Folks today are dealing with more and more stress (maybe that’s you). This series will reveal ways for you to trust God more as we look at the example of four examples in the Old Testament: Noah, Abraham, Jacob and Joseph. This would be a great time to invite a friend who is looking to have a stronger faith in God.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the Laurel Hill family for your very thoughtful Christmas gift to every staff member. Your love and generosity is very much appreciated by each and every one of us. We all feel blessed to be able to work for the Lord and for this church family. Be blessed at Christmas and in the New Year.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday	No New Life House Church (804-303-4828) No Bible Study (In Person & On Line)
Wednesday	No Prayer in Sanctuary this week No Bible Study No Handbell or Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	No PTL House Church until January 11th.
Friday	No Thankful Hearts House Church (804-737-7450)
Sunday	10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship & also available online

WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Margo Keeles, Director

Mon.-Fri.	7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.	Before and After Preschool Care (Ages 2-4)
Tue./Thurs.	9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon	..... Preschool (Age 2)
Mon./Wed./Fri.	9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon	..... Preschool (Age 3)
M/Tu./Th./Fri.	9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon	..... Preschool (Age 4)
Fri Mon.-.	2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M	..... School Age (K-12 Years)
Mon.-Fri.	7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.	.....Summer Program (Ages 2-12 Years)



## Some thoughts on giving...

Have you heard the story of a wealthy man who was dying? He called the minister to his home and said, "Preacher, I know I don't have long to live. Do you suppose that if I gave \$50,000 to the church, I could get into heaven?" The minister replied, "I don't know; but it's worth a try."

😊 Somewhere I read a statement, paraphrased like this: The record is clear. Generous givers are typically more spiritually vigorous and happier than those who are not generous. And that record has nothing whatever to do with the size of the gift! (An Encouraging Word About Giving by Brian Bauknight)

How can you give at Laurel Hill GMC?

1 – Cash and checks may be placed in the offering plate. Please contact the church office for offering envelopes.

2 - You may also give online. The QR code below will take you to our website's giving page:

<https://app.easytithes.com/App/Giving/laurelhillgiving>



3 – Planned giving – including the LHGMC in your will is a wonderful way to ensure the ministries we are called to provide for Varina will continue into the future.



## *Laurel Hill Global Methodist Church*

**Worship Passionately . Love Extravagantly . Witness Boldly**

1919 New Market Rd on Highway 5 in Varina

Henrico, Va. 23231

Website: [laurelhillchurch.org/](http://laurelhillchurch.org/) E-mail: [laurelhillchurch.varina@gmail.com](mailto:laurelhillchurch.varina@gmail.com)

Church: (804) 795-2772 - Pastor's Cell: (804) 437-0937

### OUR SERVANTS

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**Pastor: Rev. John Bright    Organist/Choir Director: Pamela Wilson**

**Secretary: Barbara Wendel    School Director: Margo Keeles**

**Custodians: Kathy and Robert Charles**

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**ENTER TO WORSHIP . DEPART TO SERVE**

