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## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

Third Sunday in Advent - Joy

December 17, 2023 - Pastor: Rev. John Bright

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Liturgist: Buddy Whitlow    Organist: Pam Wilson    Acolyte: Kathie Whitlow

Greeters: Dale Dixon & Connie Madison/ Charles Clay & Barry Deal

Ushers: Linda Kinsey and Kirby Miller    Music Leader: Tyrone Franklin

**Prelude:** Fantasia on “The First Nowell” by Henry Balcombe

**Bringing In the Light of Christ:** Kathie Whitlow

**Welcome & Announcements:** Buddy Whitlow

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath:** Reader/Barbara Wendel

After the reading and the candle is lit, please join us to read...

*“Dear Jesus, you came to bring us joy. Help us to not find our joy in the things of this world, but in you and your Kingdom. This week in our Advent journey open our eyes to the joy that surrounds us. Amen.”*

**Greeting Our Brothers and Sisters**

**Reception of New Members:** Hilda Rose Franklin and Karen Pitts

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (UMH 240)

**Joys & Concerns:** Buddy Whitlow

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

**Children’s Message:** Rev. John Bright

**Collection of Tithes and Offerings:** Linda Kinsey and Dale Dixon

**\*Doxology – “My Tribute” (UMH 99)**

**\*Offertory Prayer:** Rev. John Bright

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

## The Cantata

“The Road to Bethlehem”

by Lloyd Larson/Chancel Choir

**\* Benediction:** Rev. John Bright

**\* Postlude:** “Christmas Joy” – by Franklin Ritter

(\*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, 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.

WE ARE SO PLEASED TO RECEIVE OUR NEW MEMBERS THIS MORNING. Hilda Rose (Franklin) has been active for many years, helping us with many of our outreach programs, especially with the children. Karen Pitts has been attending more recently and was invited by her neighbors to house church and worship. They both come as transfers from other denominations. We are so blessed to have them as a part of our Laurel Hill family.

THANK YOU to our Chancel Choir and Pam, our Organist/Director, for presenting a wonderful Cantata this morning. This represents many hours of rehearsal and dedication to make this special for our Christmas season. We appreciate all the effort that was made on our behalf.

THE HANDBELL CHOIR AND CHANCEL CHOIR will not rehearse until January. Watch for details.

THIS IS THE LAST SUNDAY TO ORDER A POINSETTIA. There are order forms on the table in the narthex.

WE WANT TO BLESS OUR PASTOR AND STAFF with a Christmas gift from our congregation. Today is your last opportunity to make a contribution. Thank you.

WE WILL NOT HAVE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL this morning since we are enjoying our Cantata. Please let your children stay in worship to hear the beautiful music. Thank you.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday	10:30 AM New Life House Church (804-303-4828) 7:00 PM Bible Study (In Person & On Line)
Wednesday	9:00 AM Prayer in Sanctuary with Holy Communion 10:30 AM 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...

Jesus did not say, "I'm really sorry to have to tell you this, but do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth." Jesus did not say, "Now this next statement might offend some of you; and if it does, close your ears. But a person's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Jesus did not say to the rich young ruler, "I don't mean to offend or unduly complicate your life, but you need to go and sell everything that you have, give to the poor, and then come, follow me." More than 2,000 verses in the Bible are concerned with money and possessions. Clearly, money is a part of our Christian formation. (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.easytithe.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**

