

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

Liturgist: Jenny Nelson Organist: Pam Wilson Acolyte: Rachel Hawk
Greeters: Dale Dixon & Connie Madison/Charles Clay and Barry Deal
Ushers: Kirby Miller & Barbara Wendel Music Leader: Tyrone Franklin

Prelude: “The First Noel”

Bringing In the Light of Christ: Rachel Hawk

Welcome & Announcements: Jenny Nelson

* Call to Worship: See Insert

Greeting Our Brothers and Sisters

*Opening Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (UMH 238)

Joys & Concerns: Jenny Nelson

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer: Rev. Ed Johnson

Anthem: “The Road to Bethlehem” Lloyd Larson/Chancel Choir

Children’s Message: Nancy Henry

Collection of Tithes and Offerings: Kirby Miller

*Doxology – “My Tribute” (UMH 99)

*Offertory Prayer: Rev. Ed Johnson

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

Scripture Lesson: Romans 11:29 Rev. Ed Johnson

Sermon: “Who Rules?” Rev. Ed Johnson

Closing Hymn – “Joy to the World” (UMH 246)

* Benediction: Rev. Ed Johnson

* Postlude: “Christmas Postlude ‘In Duli Judlilo’” – by Gilbert Martin

(*Please stand if you are able.)

OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

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.

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.

NEWSLETTERS will be available next Sunday due to the holidays. Thank



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday No New Life House Church (804-303-4828)
No Bible Study (In Person & On Line)

Wednesday 9:00 AM Prayer in Sanctuary with Holy Communion
10:30 AM Bible Study
6:45 PM Handbells and 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday House Church, dinner at Olive Garden, 6:00 PM.

Friday No Thankful Hearts House Church (804-737-7450)

Sunday 10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship – also available online

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 6:00P.M.Summer Program (Ages 2-12 Years)



Some thoughts on giving...

These come from “The 33 Laws of Stewardship; Principles for a Life of True Fulfillment” by Dave Sutherland & Kirk Nowery.

How can you give at Laurel Hill GMC?

THE LAW OF PARADOXICAL PARTICIPATION – The greatest blessings often come out of the greatest sacrifices.

THE LAW OF SUPERNATURAL SUPPLY – God enables the giver to give beyond his ability to give.

THE LAW OF PERSONAL INITIATIVE – Giving out of a desire to give is better than giving out of duty.

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/ E-mail: laurelhillchurch.varina@gmail.com

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

OUR SERVANTS

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

Secretary: Barbara Wendel School Director: Margo Keeles

Custodians: Kathy and Robert Charles

ENTER TO WORSHIP . DEPART TO SERVE

CALL TO WORSHIP

First Sunday of Christmas

L. We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

P. We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

L. We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

P. We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

L. We join generations of Simeons and Annas who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

P. We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

L. Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

P. Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kingdom on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

OUR PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Written by John Wesley

