

Join us on Facebook at “AndrewChapelUMCVA” for Sunday Worship. Third Sunday of Advent,
December 13th at 10:00 a.m.

This Service will also be posted on our webpage at “andrewchapelumc.org”

Here is the Order of Worship for our online worship experience.

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means, ‘God with us.’”

Matthew 1:23

Greeting and Welcome

Prelude Music

Call to Worship (Note: This Special Call to Worship will not be on the video screen)

Pastor: We hear it said that “Christmas is for children”, but I say to you that Christmas is for everyone, for those who have lived through many Christmases; for those whose hearts rejoice or weep at the thoughts of Christmas past. Today we celebrate these beloved people, all God’s beloved ones. “This year, this year, let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!”

Sung Response: (Sung by Alison Combes) “Star-Child” TFWS #2095 (verse 3) Words and Music: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Carlton R. Young. © 1994 Carlton R. Young. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

3. Grown child, old child,
memory full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears,

Refrain:

This year, this year,
let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!

Opening Prayer

Pastor: God of love and mercy, we thank you for your loving presence in the lives of all your children. You have formed us in your image and you continue to transform us as we grow in faith. Break through the darkness in our lives and let the light of your love flood in, that we may become more productive disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Choral Introit “Prepare the Way of the Lord” Music: Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taize, 1984. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

Opening Hymn of Praise "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" UMH #218 Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876. Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1819-1900. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Response to the Lighting of the Advent Candle "Light the Advent Candle" #2090 TFWS (verse 3)
Words and Music: Mary Lu Walker. © 1975 Mary Lu Walker. *Reprinted with permission under*

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3. Light the Advent candle three:
Think of heavenly harmony;
angels singing "Peace on Earth"
at the blessed Savior's birth.

Refrain:

Candle, candle, burning bright,
shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright,
fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Anthem "Canticle of Advent" Words and Music: Lloyd Larson. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

Prayers of the People

Hymn "Of the Father's Love Begotten" UMH#206. Words: and Music: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

1. Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he
of the things are, that have been
And that future years shall see,
ever more and ever more.

2. O ye heights of heaven, adore him,
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring,
ever more and ever more.

3. Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory and dominion,

and eternal victory,
ever more and ever more.

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-45 (NRSV)

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Mary's Visit to Elizabeth" Rev. Matthew B. Sergent

Handbell Choir "O Come, Little Children" Arr. by James D. Kimball. *Used with permission of Jeffers Handbell Supply. All rights reserved.*

Hymn "Once in Royal David's City" UMH #250 Text: Cecil Frances Alexander. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,

and he shareth in our gladness.

4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Benediction

Children of God: May the light of this Advent season shine in your hearts, as you journey along your path. May your journey to the Nativity of our Lord beckon you to love and service to this world of deep need. Go in peace. And, may the God of peace go with you. Amen.

Postlude