

Join us on Facebook at “AndrewChapelUMCVA” for Sunday Worship. First Sunday After Christmas,
December 27th 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

Pastor: Praise be to God who has given God’s light to us.

All: Honor and praise to God for God’s most precious gift.

Pastor: The darkness that enveloped the people,

All: Has been pierced by the Light.

Pastor: Let us rejoice in God’s blessed goodness!

All: Let us continually praise God with great joy and thanksgiving.

Opening Prayer

Lord of mercy and joy, you have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Opening Hymn of Praise “On This Day Earth Shall Ring” UMH #248 Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; trans. by Jane M. Joseph. Music: Melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; arr. by Gustav Holst, 1925. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

1. On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.

Refrain:

Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o,
gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. His the doom, ours the mirth;
when he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth;
ox and ass beside him

from the cold would hide him.
(Refrain)

3. God's bright star, o'er his head,
Wise Men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adore him.
(Refrain)

4. On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.
(Refrain)

Prayer of Confession

All: We confess, O God, that we are not ready to come down from the Christmas “high.” So much time was spent in gathering, wrapping, and delivering gifts; in preparing in decorating our homes. But somehow, right after Christmas Day, we feel a letdown. We don’t want that “high” to be over. We want to feel the “peace on earth” feeling, but we let it go. We push it aside when we begin our journey of complaining and blaming others for everything that is going wrong. We ignore the blessing of the gift when we refuse to help those in need. Shake us up, Lord! Get us ready to be people of compassion and hope. Wake us up, Lord! Help us see the beauty and possibilities of peace around us. Fill us up, Lord! Fill us to overflowing with joy. Let our words, our thoughts, and our actions speak of your love for us. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor: Behold! God has given God’s Son that we might have life--new, vital, sparkling. Feel the wondrous power and love of God in your heart this day and know that God is with you always. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Amen.

Hymn “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” UMH#240 Text: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,

join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40 (NRSV)

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah, ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Mary Did You Know?” Rev. Dr. Joe D. Sergent

Special Music “Mary Did You Know” Arr. by Jack Schrader. Classic Christmas carol by Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene. Hope Publishing Company. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

Prayers of the People

Hymn “Go, Tell It On the Mountain” UMH #251 Words: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by John W. Work, Jr. 1907. Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens

There shone a holy light
(Refrain)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! Above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth
(Refrain)

3. Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn
(Refrain)

Benediction

Go in peace, for we have seen the salvation of our God. Go with joy, for Christ has clothed us with love. Go in hope, for the Spirit shows us our glorious inheritance in the Lord. Go with God.

Postlude