



**LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Ascension Sunday*

May 16, 2021 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

Jacob Devol

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*Spirit of the Living God (Hymn No. 288)*

Laurel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Henderson

Leader: Mystery of God;

**People: Surround us in all our unknowing.**

Leader: Wisdom of God;

**People: Remind us that you are as close to us as our own breath.**

Leader: Love of God;

**People: Release us and bless us to discover you anew!**

\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## *RECEIVING LOVE*

CHORAL HYMN

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (Hymn No. 263)*

Laurel Choir

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever present God, we so naturally want to cling to you, to cling to what we know, to what we understand, to what is so familiar. And yet, you are asking us to let the earthly Jesus go so that you may return to us as the cosmic Christ. The One who was before time, and is in time, and will be present at the end of time. But, we are so afraid to let you go. We are afraid that if we do, we will never know you again. Forgive our doubt. Settle our fears. And remind us that in letting you go, we will find you MORE present in everything and everyone, for your love is our Alpha and our Omega, and is trustworthy and true. For all these things we pray in the name of our Ascended One, who is, and was, and always will be, our Christ. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION . . . Amen

FORGIVENESS OF SIN

**Leader:** Beloved, hear the good news: We are created in the very image and likeness of God. And because we are, we can always begin again and again to claim the love that claims us.

Friends, believe this good news!

**All:**           **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Gloria Patri*

Laurel Choir

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

**Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## *PROCLAIMING LOVE*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24: 44-53 (NRSV)

SERMON

*"Do Not Cling to Me!"*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*RESPONDING IN LOVE*

SOLO

*Open My Eyes*

Jacob Devol

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The Apostles Creed*

Michael Henderson

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

A GRATEFUL HEART (HYMN NO. 652)

Laurel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Michael Henderson

*BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD*

CHORAL HYMN

*Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

Laurel Choir

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

\*POSTLUDE

Jacob Devol

**A Hearty Welcome to Jacob Devol:** Jacob Devol is gifting us with his presence while David is away this Sunday. We have been blessed to have Jacob at Christmas time with us. He is an accomplished musician. Jacob serves as the Director of Vocal Music at Mills E. Godwin High School.

**\*The Astrick is Back!:** Please feel free to stand (or not) at these junctures in our worship service.

**Invitation to Move:** You are invited to stand, stretch and move about during our worship service. The restrooms are just down the hall. Your comfort is most important to us so please always know that you are welcomed to do so.

**Lay Reader:** Thank you to Michael Henderson for serving as our liturgist today.

**Ascension Sunday:** We are celebrating the ascension of Jesus back into the loving arms of our Beloved God this Sunday. Next Sunday we will celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

**Worship Production Team (WPT):** A special thank you to Duane Berger, Rudy van't Riet, Ann Whitby and Steve Scarce for recording and producing our worship services.

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The flowers are given this day by Ann Cherry to the glory of God in honor of her dad, Vin Cibbarelli, whose love inspires her daily, and in memory of her mom, Beverly Bell Cibbarelli, whose love abides always.

**Passing of the Peace:** You are invited to greet each other with air hugs, waves and elbow bumps.

**March Madness Results:** It is madness that this report is coming to us in the middle of May but Sharon Riley wins all bragging rights to our basketball tournament. She had the highest points out of all of us bracket-busted runs. Way to go, Sharon!!

**Processing our Pandemic Life:** Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 pm in our church parking lot. We will unpack pandemic living and all that this past year has cost us in order to keep one foot in front of the other. Come with your stories to share and how we might re-enter leaving behind the notion that we are still threats to one another.

**Women's Circle:** Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, outside in our parking lot. Carol Short is leading a study of the Journey Into Joy about cultivating Christian practices.

**Sunday School:** We are in the process of re-thinking our SS location and time. If you have thoughts about this, please reach out to Michael Henderson, our Worship and Education, Team Co-Chair.

**Next Fireside Happy Hour (FHH):** Is scheduled for Thursday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 5 pm. Bring your favorite libation, beach chair, nibbles and stories as we kick off this long weekend in our parking lot.

**Post-Pandemic Re-Entry Hospitality:** We are awkwardly finding our way back to normal after 16-months of living the secluded life where we have had to be extremely cautious to protect ourselves from each other in order to protect ourselves from the virus. As we re-enter the social arena again, let us greet each other with hearty hellos, smiling eyes and Laurel Love. Let our joy resonate through our warmth and our loving greeting of one another.

**Come Back When You're Ready:** Please know that we love you and want you to make attendance choices that reflect what is best for your well-being. We understand if you still prefer to stay at home. We are a judgement free zone : )

**Rev. Ann New Cell Phone:** Just a heads-up that a new number is coming our way. You can use the old number until the new one is activated.

**Friday, New Dedicated Day Off:** Rev. Ann will be taking off Friday's and one other day during the seven day week that will flex depending on the needs of our congregation for the week.

**LIVE from Laurel Pres!** You can now connect to us at our regular worship time and worship alongside Laurel family. Just go to our website, click Services, and this will bring you to our YouTube page. This should play automatically.

**Ruth Doering:** A Service of Worship and Celebration for Ruth will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in our sanctuary. An outdoor reception will follow.

**Our Choir rehearses every Thursday Night:** 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Please join us!

**Our Tithes and Our Offerings:** Please mail in your tithes and offerings using our post office address: P.O. Box 1280, Glen Allen, VA 23060-1280

**Call to Prayer:** Let us give thanks to God for this gift of forever life as we let go of the old and bless it for the gifts it has given us.

**Pastoral Care:** Please call or text the Rev. Ann Cherry at 804- 873-1990, or email her at [laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com](mailto:laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com). If this is an urgent or time sensitive matter, please leave a voice mail or text message to indicate so.

**The Shepherd of the Month:** Please reach out to Mary Jane Bowlin, the Shepherd of the month for May, at (804) 672-6009 for member care and TLC.

## L a u r e l P r e s b y t e r i a n C h u r c h

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry, Minister

Rob McBane, Treasurer

J. David Clatterbuck, Director of Music

Wayne Deisher, Bookkeeper

Diane Jackson, Session, MCM Team

Stephen Scearce, Session, SP Team

Mary Jane Bowlin, Session MCM Team

Michael Henderson, Session, WE Team

Nana Sarfo-Kantanka, Session, MCM Team

Duane Berger, Session, WE Team

Linda Coulson, Session, MCM Team

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