



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Pentecost 14*

August 29, 2021 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

J. David Clatterbuck

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*Spirit of the Living God*

*Hymn No. 288*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Henderson

**Leader:** Our hearts overflow with love for you, O Beloved One!

**People:** Let us be mirrors of this same love.

**Leader:** Grace is poured from your lips; you enchant us by loving us so completely!

**People:** Let us expand your footprint of love.

**Leader:** "My Beloved speaks and says to me, 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away'" (Adapted from Song of Solomon 2: 8-13).

**People:** We are swept away by your gracious love, and our hearts are eager to embrace your creation!

\*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.**

\*MUSICAL OFFERING

*There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Hymn No. 408

## *RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Loving God, we are so quick to anger, so quick to judge and so quick to rant. Yet we are slow to forgive, slow to listen and slow to extend grace. You ask us to be “doers of your word”, to expand your footprint of love through our own, but we trust ourselves, rather than you, as our true north. Forgive our knee jerk reactions, our ready answers, our “go to” behaviors for navigating grey area and stress points. Free us from ourselves and our need for pecking orders, opinions, and labels. Show us how to see with kingdom eyes, and how to love with kingdom hearts, for we pray these things through the tenderness of Jesus, 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 in Christ.  
Friends, believe this good news!

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

\*MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Gloria Patri*

*Hymn No. 581*

\*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

Mark 7: 1-3, 14-21a (NRSV)

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Sing Them Over Again To Me*

J. David Clatterbuck

SCRIPTURE READING

James 1: 19-25 (NRSV)

SERMON

*"Expanding the Footprint of Love"*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

***RESPONDING IN LOVE***

\*MUSICAL OFFERING

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Hymn No. 440

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The Belhar Confession*

Michael Henderson

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.**

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.**

SPECIAL MUSIC – PIANO SOLO

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

J. David Clatterbuck

A LAMENT FOR KABUL

The Rev. Ann. D. Cherry / Michael Henderson

**Leader:** How abandoned sits the city,  
once full of people with desire and hope.  
How like a widow she has become,  
she that was great throughout her country.  
She that was the last stronghold among the provinces  
has now become a vassal.

**People:** **She weeps bitterly day and night,  
tears streaming down her cheeks.  
She has no one now to comfort her;  
all her "friends" have betrayed her;**

**they have become her enemies.**

Leader: The roads to Kabul are blocked,  
all her gates are closed.  
Her young women grieve,  
for their prospects are bitter.

**People: Her foes have become the masters;  
her oppressors prosper.  
They speak peace and amnesty,  
while beating, targeting, and harassing.**

Leader: From daughter Kabul has departed all hope.  
Her leaders have betrayed her;  
they fled without strength before the pursuer.

**People: The nations hang their heads in shame,  
their "good" intentions having paved this way to hell,  
their interventions fostering aspiration ruined by corruption.  
The leaders of the nations did not believe,  
nor did any of the inhabitants of the world,  
that foe or enemy could enter so quickly  
the very gates of Kabul.**

Leader: "Is it nothing to you, all who have come and are now gone?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow!  
For these things I weep, my eyes flow with tears;  
my mouth is filled with outrage.  
My children are desolate,  
for the enemy has prevailed."

**People: May the day come when salam, *peace*, is restored;  
when our mourning turns to dancing,  
and the joy of our hearts returns,  
when our women and men, children and elders, can flourish,  
to determine their lives and serve in freedom.  
And may it happen on our terms for once.  
May *our Beloved* be our portion.** (William P. Brown, 2021)

## *BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD*

*MUSICAL OFFERING	<i>We Give Thee But Thine Own</i>	Hymn No. 708
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*POSTLUDE		J. David Clatterbuck

**\*Please feel free to stand during our worship service.**

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

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The flowers are given this day by Carol and Rick Short to the glory of God and in honor of Carol's mother, Corinne Augustine, on the occasion of her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**A Lament for Kabul:** This lament was written by my *Old Testament* professor, Dr. William P. Brown, who is now a professor at Columbia. It puts into words the heartache and anguish patterned after Lamentations. This is used with permission.

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

**Invitation to Move or Not:** You are invited to stand, stretch, and move during our worship service as well as to remain seated. Your comfort is key, so make yourself at home.

**Passing of the Peace:** You are invited to greet each other with air hugs in the name of our Beloved One.

**The Belhar Confession:** The Belhar Confession was added to the PC (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions by the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in 2016. It was a statement of faith written in Afrikaans in 1982 to reflect the union of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church and the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa.

**S'mores Night September 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm:** Join us on Wednesday night for a campfire, s'mores and end-of-the-summer stories. Please feel free to bring your favorite libation to enjoy as well. Marshall Chamberlayne will be our campfire marshal on duty : )

**Mask On or Mask Off?** Given the significant spread of the highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19 (a more contagious variant than we dealt with this past winter), your Session is now recommending that we all mask while indoors, regardless of whether or not we are vaccinated. Please also sit every other pew and make use of the hand sanitizing stations at the front and back of the church.

**Singing:** You can tap and clap without a mask, and hum if you have a mask on. You can also sing if you use one of the Broadway masks that David ordered for our choir last fall. Here is that link: <https://www.broadwayreliefproject.com/singersmask>

**Small Groups are coming to Laurel:** Small groups are one way that we can grow together in our practice of Christianity and in our love as a beloved community.

One group, led by Chris Rogen of VCU, will be reading *Dusk, Night, Dawn* by Anne Lamott, about the third third of life, and the beauty of this time of life. We will be intentionally identifying meaning and purpose in our lives.

The second group, led by Ann Cherry, will be reading *The Way to Love* by Anthony De Mello, about how to claim the image of God inside of us, which De Mello suggests is everything we need to be content. This group will learn how to practice contemplation.

**Dusk, Night, Dawn:** will start Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

**The Way to Love:** will start October 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

**Meet Chris Rogen:** Chris, the small group leader of *Dusk, Night, Dawn*, will be introduced in worship next Sunday. Come on out and say hello.

**Hallway Love:** The Session authorized a fresh coat of paint for some of our hallways. Check it out on your way out.

**Call for Pictures:** We are going to begin featuring the faces of Laurel Love before worship each Sunday. Send your pictures to Duane Berger at [otm88@rcn.com](mailto:otm88@rcn.com).

**Mission Completed:** Thank you for your generosity - your love shared with Coal Pit Learning Center was amazing and appreciated. Special thanks to Judy Smith for running point, and to Jim Smith and Jim Clark who delivered our haul.

**LIVE from Laurel Pres!** You can connect to worship with us at our regular service time. Just go to our website ([laurelpres.com](http://laurelpres.com)), choose the "worship" tab, and follow the link to our YouTube page. The service should play automatically.

**Choir Rehearsals Resume on Thursday Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm:** All those interested in singing in the choir, please join us on Thursday nights. For the safety of all, we will be wearing the Broadway Singing Masks.

**Bulletin Announcements Best Guide:** Please use this as your church event planner for our life together. Sometimes the schedule needs to shift from what is posted in our newsletter.

**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.

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

**Pastoral Care:** Please call or text Rev. Ann at **804-508-3850** or email her at [laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com](mailto:laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com). Please feel free to use her personal cell to reach out at 804-873-1990 if she misses a call/text on the church cell. She wants to be present to us :)

**August and September Shepherds of the Month:** Carolyn Stinger is our Shepherd of the month for August and Michelle McBane is our Shepherd of the Month for September. You can reach Carol at (804) 755-7150 and Michelle at (804) 432-3760. Shepherds provide member care and TLC.

**Call to Prayer:** Let us give thanks to God for making love known through each and every one of us.

### **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

### **Find Us Here:**

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Let Love Be Known Here

“Be doers of the word, not just hearers” James 1: 22