



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Pentecost 16

September 12, 2021 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE	<i>Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	Matthew Bruins & J. David Clatterbuck
RINGING OF THE HOUR		Janice Berger
WELCOME BELOVED ONES/ANNOUNCEMENTS		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
MINUTE FOR MISSION		Carol Short

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>Spirit of the Living God</i>	Hymn No. 288
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Michael Henderson

Leader: **In the streets and city square, Wisdom cries out. My friends are we listening?**

People: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

Leader: **The heavens and the earth proclaim the glory of God. My friends, are we listening?**

People: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

Leader: **The word of God revives the soul and warms the heart. My friends, are we listening?**

People: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

Leader: **Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" Dear, friends, what is our answer?**

People: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

*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.

CHORAL GATHERING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Vs. 1-3

Hymn No. 611

RECEIVING LOVE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of All Wisdom, you ask each one of us to answer, "who do you say that I am?" And like Peter, there are days when we know you as our Messiah and there are days when we don't. You ask us to stake our very lives on the frontline of this knowing, yet we are afraid. Afraid of what others might think, afraid of making mistakes trying, afraid of where this choice might lead us. We want to make your love known but we sometimes feel that we are not enough, or there is not enough. Help us to participate in caring for the refugee, for the sick, for the voiceless, for the disenfranchised, for the "other." Pour out your wisdom into our lives so that we might boldly declare that you are OUR Messiah, for we pray this in the name of Jesus, who is and was, and always will be our Christ. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION . . . Amen

*FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Leader: Beloved Ones, 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!

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Vs. 4

Hymn No. 611

***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 8: 27-38 (NRSV)

ANTHEM

Create In Me A Clean Heart

Laurel Choir

SERMON

"Really, Who?"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

CHORAL MUSICAL OFFERING

Hear the Good News of Salvation Vs. 1-2

Hymn No. 441

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

Michael Henderson

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father; from thence he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Michael Henderson

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

SENDING CHORAL HYMN

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace Vs. 1-2

Hymn No. 545

***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 Joshua Stanton and Katie Stanton to the glory of God and in loving memory of their Paw (Boo Bell) and in honor of their Nannie (Sue Bell) on this Grandparents Day.

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 or even 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 and waves in the name of our Beloved One.

Welcome Matt Bruins: Matthew Bruins has been playing trumpet since his mom handed him his uncle's trumpet in the 5th grade. After many years of resistance, he finally realized with practice he could be pretty good, and eventually he went to college as a music major at SUNY Fredonia and East Carolina University. Matthew taught music at Pocahontas MS for 18 years (many of those years as a colleague of our very own David Clatterbuck). Currently Matthew is a CDLA truck driver and moonlights as a professional trumpet player in the Richmond area. We are thrilled to welcome Matt to our worship this day!

Today is Rally Day! Today we kick off the beginning of our church calendar year. Have a hankering to sing? Now is the time to join the choir. Have an itch to serve on Session? Now is the time to make that known. Have a vision for Laurel Love? Now is the time to join the Vision Task Force. Have a particular gift? Now is the time to join one of our three teams: Stewardship and Property, Mission and Member Care, or Worship and Education. The secret of Laurel Love? It is our co-participation in making love known.

Lay Reader Training: Mark your calendar for Sunday October 3rd, right after worship, when we will provide pro tips for leading worship. If you have energy for this, please reach out to Ann Cherry.

Refugee Love: We are partnering with Gregory Memorial and First Presbyterian churches to respond to the refugees who have arrived at Fort Lee. See the insert in the bulletin for the urgent needs of this group. We would like to collect gifts for the Afghan Refugees by today. Mary Scarce and Carolyn Stinger are running point on this project for us.

Session Meeting Today: Our Session will convene just after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Women's Circle Kicks Off Tuesday: Join Carol Short as she leads us through the women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus in "What My Grandmothers Taught Me." We will meet at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Vision Team Next Week: Our Vision Task Force will meet next Sunday (September 19) right after worship in our Fellowship Hall. We are thinking again about who we really are and who God is calling us to be. From our discussions so far, one idea that has been proposed is that Laurel is “a small country church in the city.” Bring your thoughts and join the task force meeting on September 19 to discuss.

Peace and Global Witness Offering: We are receiving this offering through October 3rd. Earmark your checks with “Peace Offering.” The Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord, and division, and embrace reconciling God’s mission with those around the world (2 Thess 3:16). Please give generously.

Small Groups are here at Laurel: Small groups are one way that we can grow together in our practice of Christianity and in our love as a beloved community. We are offering two ways for us to form even deeper connections with each other. All are welcome.

Our First Small Group meets every Thursday at 1pm: This group led by **Chris Rhoden** of VCU is reading **Dusk, Night, Dawn** by Anne Lamott. The focus will be tackling our thinking around the third third of life, and the perceptions (and misperceptions of) beauty. We will be intentionally identifying meaning and purpose in our lives.

Our Second Small Group Starts on Tuesday October 5th at 3 pm: We will be reading **The Way to Love** by Anthony De Mello and we will talk about how we claim the image of God inside of us, which De Mello suggests is everything we need to be content. We will learn how to practice contemplation, and we will meet the first and last Tuesdays of the month. This group will be led by Ann Cherry.

Bruster’s Love: Join us on Wednesday September 22nd at 6 pm at Bruster’s for some awesome conversation and great ice cream. We are meeting earlier because it is getting darker earlier :)

Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting: The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 26th, immediately following worship, for the purpose of hearing the report of Session, convening and electing our Corporation trustees, and electing our Nominating Committee.

Masks recommended: Given significant rise in COVID-19 cases in Virginia due to the more infectious Delta variant, your Session is now recommending that we mask indoors. This recommendation is made regardless of our vaccination status. Please sit every other pew and make use of the hand sanitizing stations.

Singing: There are options for us to participate in worship even when masked. We can hum, tap, and clap to show our love of God. If you are missing singing, please consider ordering one of the Broadway masks that David Clatterbuck, our Director of Music, ordered for our choir last fall. Here is that link: <https://www.broadwayreliefproject.com/singersmask>

Call for Pictures: Our projector is being repaired thanks to the loving care of Duane Berger and Ann and Michael Whitby. Soon we are going to begin featuring the faces of Laurel Love before worship each Sunday. Please send your pictures to Duane Berger at otm88@rcn.com.

Choir Rehearsals Resume: All those interested in singing in the choir, please join us on Thursday nights at 5:30 pm. 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. Please use her personal cell (804-873-1990) if she misses a call/text on the church cell. She wants to be present to us :)

September Shepherd of the Month: Michelle McBane is our Shepherd of the Month for September. You can reach her at (804) 432-3760. Shepherds provide member care and TLC.

LIVE from Laurel Pres! You can connect to us at our regular service time and worship alongside of us. Go to laurelpres.com, choose the "worship" tab, and follow the link to our YouTube page.

Call to Prayer: Let us be in prayer for the Afghan refugees who are a displaced people starting their lives once again.

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 Searce, 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

laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com

laurelpres@verizon.net

laurelpres.com

“But, who do you say that I am?” Mark 8:29

Let Love Be Known Here