



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Pentecost 17*

September 19, 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
MINUTE FOR MISSION	Mary Scarce and Sue Bell

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

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

**Leader:** Draw near to our Beloved One and grow strong in Christ's presence.

People: Choose life. Choose love. Choose Grace.

**Leader:** Lift up the least of these and know the kingdom of God has come near.

People: Choose service. Choose kindness. Choose justice.

**Leader:** Draw near to our Beloved One and see Christ leading from our hearts.

People: Lead from the back. Lift-up the child. Live from a place of radical love.

\*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 *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Vs. 1, 2 & 4 Hymn No. 667

*RECEIVING LOVE*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of the upside-down kingdom, we live in a world that does not understand leading from behind. That does not understand lifting up the least of these. That does not understand that all of us are precious and valued and respected in your kingdom. We live in a world that worships raw power, accumulating wealth, and being the best in class. We live in a world where the pecking order is our rule of life instead of your radical love. We become entranced with living a worldly life instead of living the kingdom life. Forgive us for wanting to push to the front of the line, for failing to lift-up the marginalized, and for being afraid to advocate for your goodness to be known in the details of our living. Like the disciples, help us to let go of our striving to the top and our knee jerk reaction to avoid suffering at all costs, so that we might be free to live from your place of radical love 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

*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 9:30-37 (NRSV)

ANTHEM

*For Where Love Is, There Is God*

Laurel Choir

*RESPONDING IN LOVE*

CHORAL MUSICAL OFFERING

*Jesus Loves Me*

Vs. 1-2

Hymn No. 188

\*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

*We Praise You O God* Vs. 1 & 3

Hymn No. 612

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

\*POSTLUDE

J. David Clatterbuck

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**\*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 Phyllis Perross to the glory of God and in loving memory of her mother, Laura Perross.

**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.

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

**Vision Team Today:** Our Vision Task Force will meet 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” and a second that “Laurel is a place where everyone knows your name.” Bring your thoughts and join us to discuss.

**Peace and Global Witness Offering:** We are receiving this offering through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 our reconciling God’s mission with those around the world (2 Thess 3:16). Please give generously.

**Feeding the Police:** Our Session has approved the "Feeding the Police" mission project and has expanded to 2 stations. We will deliver lunch on October 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be part, please call Sue Bell at 266-9429 or email her at [siouxbell@msn.com](mailto:siouxbell@msn.com). You can also speak with Mary Jane Bowlin (672-6009) or one of the MCM Team. We are putting together a menu that will be announced next Sunday. If you are unable to prepare food, donations are welcomed, just note, “Feeding the Police” on the check memo line made out to Laurel.

**Refugee Love Received:** Thanks to Mary Scarce and Carolyn Stinger, who ran point on this project, and to the hands of Steve Scarce, our generous donation was made to the Afghan Joint Relief Project that we shared with First Presbyterian of Richmond and Gregory Memorial of Prince George. A big thank you for showing your love.

**Newsletter Articles Due:** Please send in your Laurel news or shout outs to Brenda and Pete MacRae by Tuesday. You can send articles to [pbmacrae@comcast.net](mailto:pbmacrae@comcast.net) Thank you.

**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. See Ann or Chris for extra book.

**Our Second Small Group Starts on Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Tuesday of the month. This group will be led by Ann Cherry.

**Bruster's Love:** Join us on Wednesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 next Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:otm88@rcn.com).

**Choir Rehearsals Resumes:** 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.

**5 Cents a Meal:** We will be accepting offerings next Sunday for the Five Cents a Meal fund. Please earmark your check in the memo line for the Five Cents a Meal fund. This is how we contribute to eradicating world hunger through our Presbytery outreach program.

**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 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 YouTube page.

**Call to Prayer:** Let us be in prayer for the military and families who have sacrificed so that we might know safety at home, as well as for our Afghan displaced refugees, and for our Henrico County first responders.

### **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

[laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com](mailto:laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com)

[laurelpres@verizon.net](mailto:laurelpres@verizon.net)

laurelpres.com

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Mark 9:35b

Let Love Be Known Here