



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Pentecost 23*

October 31, 2021 10:00 AM

*Where Love is Known*

PRELUDE

J. David Clatterbuck

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*Spirit of the Living God*

Hymn No. 288

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pete MacRae

Leader: Praise the Lord! The Lord sets the prisoners free!

**People: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

Leader: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.

**People: The Lord loves every single one of us—the old and the young.**

Leader: The Lord watches over the stranger; upholding the orphan and widow.

**People: The Lord will reign forever, Praise the Lord! (Adapted from Ps. 146: 7b-10)**

\*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; lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

CHORAL GATHERING HYMN

*We Are One, in the Spirit (vs. 1,2 & 4)*

Hymn No. 300

*RECEIVING LOVE*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of new bones and old bones, you lead us through all the days of our lives. When the winds of faith are strong and our spirits are invigorated, you are with us. When the burdens of life seem oppressive and our spirits sag, you are with us. When storms pop up and pain rocks our boats, you come alongside of us. And when you ask the seemingly impossible, you lead us forward. O Lord, forgive us when we dismiss your steadfast love. Sometimes we just do not want “to see” as you see. Other times, we think we are stronger without you. Sometimes we keep you locked in the past as if your best efforts concluded long ago. And other times, we are too afraid to follow. God of the living, give us the courage to really, really, trust you, and the energy to serve you, especially as you rock, rattle and roll these dry bones into dance, for we pray all of these things 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NRSV)

ANTHEM

*Hush! Somebody's Calling My Name*

Laurel Choir

SERMON

*“Our Dry Bones Can Dance”*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

## *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

CHORAL OFFERING

*Dry Bones*

Traditional Hymn Arr. Gearhart

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

*A Brief Statement of Faith 10.4*

Pete MacRae

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
 everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
 The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
 sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
 and binds us together with all believers  
 in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit  
 who inspired the prophets and apostles  
 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
 engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
 claims us in the waters of baptism,  
 feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
 and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
 In a broken and fearful world  
 the Spirit gives us courage  
 to pray without ceasing,  
 to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
 to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
 to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
 we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
 and to live holy and joyful lives,  
 even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
 praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

CHORAL HYMN

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God (vs. 1)*

Hymn No. 286

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Michael Henderson

## *BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD*

SENDING CHORAL HYMN

*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (vs. 1 & 4)*

Hymn No. 291

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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

**Lay Reader:** Thank you to Pete MacRae and to Michael Henderson for serving as our liturgists today.

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The flowers are given this day to the glory of God.

**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 as one awesome way to show forth your Laurel Love : )

**Coffee and Donut Love:** Didn't get enough of Fall Love at our picnic? Come on out on Wednesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> to Country Donuts at 3pm. We will continue the magic of gathering and enjoying the gifts of fall.

**Our Dry Bones Can Dance!** November is all about declaring our Laurel Love in time, talent, and financial resources. This year we are daring bravely to follow God's vision for Laurel. We will have two opportunities to give. One will be for the general budget so we can support the awesome ministry of this church, and the other will be for a capital campaign to support building the vision that God has put before us. Every little bit counts as we grow stronger as the body of Christ. Expect to see a stewardship letter by mail and look for stewardship pledge cards by bulletins and near the small white church in the narthex.

**Dust, Night, Dawn meets Thursday at 1pm:** This group led by **Chris Rhoden** of VCU is reading **Dusk, Night, Dawn** by Anne Lamott. This group is meeting in the sanctuary.

**A Big Shout Out to Denis Ramdas and MCM Team for Halloween Love:** Thank you to all who made the magic happen at our harvest party yesterday. Laurel Love has spirit and can rock, rattle and roll.

**Afghan Welcome Project:** We are working with First Presbyterian Church to supply additional needs for our Afghan refugees at Fort Lee. If you have gently used men's belts (size 36 and below), shoes and sneakers for all sizes and genders, winter coats for all sizes and genders, rollable luggage, and approved car seats, please bring to the church by November 7th.

**Three Captains Needed:** Online Community. Online Giving. Stewardship. We need a captain to nurture and shepherd our online community; we need a captain to research and spearhead our online giving platform; and we need a captain to run point on our stewardship season. If any of these positions piqued your curiosity, please reach out to Ann Cherry.

**Advent Devotional:** You are invited to participate in an Advent 4-week study that will meet by Zoom at 7 pm on Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please let Ann know that you will be attending by November 15th so we can order you a book. Please bring your wonder and stardust : )

**Armchairs in the Back:** We have 2 dedicated spots in the back right in front of the sound booth for those who might prefer seats with arms.

**Ushers:** If you have a gift for welcoming others, we would love to have you sharing some Laurel Love Sunday mornings. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway to make your love known.

**Coffee Bar:** Thanks to the creative genius of Ann Whitby and the Vision Task Force, we have a new coffee bar in the Narthex outfitted with high test and decaf options. This is love in action. Please enjoy a cup : ) You can also take a coffee cup holder to your pew and enjoy during worship.

**Masks Recommended:** Due to the continued high case count from 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. One way to know if you are sitting 6 feet apart is to “twist and turn” during our passing of the peace. If you bump into someone then add some additional buffer space.

**Singing:** We are watching the Delta numbers carefully and as soon as it makes sense, we will move to allowing singing with our regular masks. At this point we encourage the purchase of the Broadway Singing Mask. The other option for us to participate is to hum, tap, and clap to show our love of God. The mask link: <https://www.broadwayreliefproject.com/singersmask>

**Choir Rehearsals:** All those interested in singing, please join us on Thursdays 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](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 :)

**October and November Shepherds of the Month:** Carol Short is our Shepherd of the Month for October. You can reach her at (804) 922-6227. Margaret and Reggie Fitch are our Shepherds of the Month for November. You can reach the Fitches at 755-7201. Shepherds provide member care and TLC.

**LIVE from Laurel Pres!** You can virtually connect at our regular service time or any time thereafter. Go to [laurelpres.com](http://laurelpres.com), choose the “worship” tab, and follow the link to our YouTube page. You can also view our worship services at another time.

**Pledge Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>:** Soon you will be receiving your pledge card for 2022. Please think about how you want to support Laurel Love. We will be dedicating our offerings on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Call to Prayer:** Let us be in prayer for all those who are suffering, who are marginalized, who are carrying heavy burdens, and who are seekers of love.

## 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

Chris Rhoden, Small Group Leader

Linda Coulson, Session, MCM Team

Diane Jackson, Session, MCM Team

Stephen Scarce, 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

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“He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.”  
Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word  
of the LORD” . . . “O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live!”  
Ezekiel 37:3-4,14a

**Let Love Be Known Here**