



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Advent 4

December 19, 2021 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

David Clatterbuck

J.

**IMAGO DEI

Engraved with Love, Each One of Us

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Come Child of Light

Laurel Choir

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Candle of Joy

The Searce Family

CHORAL RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Laurel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pete MacRae

Leader: The Angel Gabriel says to Mary and to us,

People: "Greetings, favored one!"

Leader: "Do not be afraid for you have found favor with God!"

People: Our soul does magnify the Lord!! (Adapted from Luke 1: 26-38)

*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.

GATHERING ANTHEM

Prepare the Way

Duane Berger – Soloist/Laurel Choir

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Beloved One, our attention wanders and we often find ourselves focused on ourselves, or the faults of others, or on the trivial, anything but your emanations of glory and grace all around us. We easily forget that You are the center of our lives and Creator of all that is, seen and unseen. As Christ's coming nears, call us back to the one thing that we truly need: You. As we come and go these last few days before your birth, remind us of your presence and your providence that we might worship you and love you, with all our heart, soul, and might. Open our eyes to see all the beauty and truth you reveal to us as a result, for we pray this in the name of that One to Come, who is and was and always will be, our Christ. Amen. (Adapted from Jill Duffield, Advent in Plain Sight, 2021)

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION . . . Amen

FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Leader: Beloved, hear the good news: We are all Bethlehem Bound. And because we are, we can always take our kneeling places, and claim the love that claims us at the stable. Friends, Believe this Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain)* Laurel Choir

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING LOVE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON IN MUSIC *"A THRILL OF HOPE"* Laurel Choir

A Christmas Musical by Joel Raney

Narration – Carol Short Soloist – Sherry Talbott

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed 1.2

Pete MacRae

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
 and became truly human.

*ADVENT RESPONSE

Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love

Laurel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn No. 119

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

POSTLUDE

J. David Clatterbuck

***Please feel free to stand and move during our worship service.**

"A Thrill of Hope" Cantata: A very special worship service is given this day to the glory of God and performed by our talented Choir and Music Director. This beautiful cantata features 3 guest singers—Rick Glass, Carson Kolb and Sherry Talbott—alongside our choir members. All three have sung with our choir before and we are delighted to welcome them again.

"A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices!" Nothing captures the awe and wonder of Christmas better than that single phrase from John Dwight's O Holy Night, and it

serves as the cornerstone of this Christmas musical. It looks at the birth of Christ from four distinct vantage points - Celebrating the Hope he brought, the Love he showed, the Peace he promised, and the Joy of Emmanuel, God with us, forevermore!

****Imago Dei, Engraved with Love:** You are invited forward to receive a heart ornament from the communion table and to inscribe your initials on one side, and your gift of love on the back, and to hang it on our Chrismon Tree.

On Christmas Eve, you are invited to take your ornament home and to give your heart to yourself, as God's reminder of your tiny God Showing, or to someone you love as deeply.

Each one of us is a tiny God Showing of the incarnate love of God. Each one of us has been gifted by our Creator with a trait of our Beloved One. We all are engraved with this sacred blueprint of Love. Let this heart be a visible reminder of this gift inside of you and to our beloved community of Laurel Love.

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

Prayer of Confession: Our Prayer of Confession was adapted from the work of Dr. Jill Duffield, author of *Advent in Plain Sight*, 2021, 10, published by Westminster John Knox Press.

Sanctuary Flowers: The Poinsettias Flowers are given this day to the glory of God for the presence of Love in our midst. Please see the insert for our list of all those honored or remembered by this gift of love. Thank you to the Bergers and to Karen Johnson for coordinating.

Advent 4: Today, we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of Joy, as we mark this final leg of the journey alongside the holy family to Bethlehem.

Advent Wreath Lighter: A special thank you to The Searce Family for serving as our Advent Wreath lighters today.

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 :)

Friendship Pads: Old and New friends, please take a moment to fill out the Friendship Pads. It is important that we have a way to contact you in the event of a COVID event like we experienced last week. Even if you think we have your info, please provide a cell phone or email contact. Friendship Pads can be found at the end of the pews :)

The Joy Offering: We are receiving the PC (USA) Joy Offering this Sunday and next, which supports our church leaders. Thank you for your gift.

Advent Practice: This is the last week for our daily meditations to practice at home. Try to slow down and take time each day to sit with God to prepare for the birth of this One to come. Try lighting a candle as you pray along and incorporate your DIY Advent Wreath in the process.

Congratulations to our New Officers: Tod Balsbaugh, Duane Berger, Gladys Bowles, Michael Henderson, Brenda MacRae and Denis Ramdas.

Last Advent Study Group Tuesday @ 7 pm: The same Zoom link will go out on Monday. Please bring your wonder and stardust :)

Candlelit Service, Christmas Eve, 5:30 pm: We will gather on this holy of holy nights to celebrate the gift of God coming to us again. After the service, we will gather outside to sing Christmas carols by candlelight. We ask that you sit 6 feet apart and every other pew.

Lessons and Carols, Sunday December 26th: Please join us on Sunday December 26th at 10 am for a celebration of the traditional Lessons and Carols worship service.

Last Call to Express Our Christmas Love: We have three ways to express it this year.

The first way is to show **Family Love** to the same family we adopted for Thanksgiving. Just take an ornament off the large tree and purchase the suggested gift, wrap the gift, place the ornament on the gift, and place the gift back under the tree. **We also will be providing a meal for Christmas, so please include food donations :) Next Sunday is the last day to receive your gifts of love.**

The second way is to show **Member Love** to one of our own. You can write a check to Laurel Presbyterian and designate in the memo line that it is for Member Love or you can put money in an envelope, and drop it in the small white church in the narthex, or you can grab a gift card (Walmart, Kroger, Z-cuts, Goodwill, a Nail Salon at Gayton Crossings, VISA) and put it in an envelope labeled Member Love and drop it in the church box. Envelopes can be found by the small tree. At the end of Advent, we will write one check to our special member so that our gifts will remain anonymous.

The third way is **to write a love note** to our recipient of Member Love. You will find cards and envelopes by the tree. Just write your sweet message of love and hope and hang them on the tree.

Stewardship Love: We thank you for returning your pledge cards. Your gifts allow us to show God's love through Laurel's quest to make Love Known Here. It is not too late if you have not pledged yet . . . your love is always welcomed and appreciated.

The Vision Fund: Be sure to designate your checks with "Vision Fund" in the memo section if you are contributing to this fund. Also, be sure to keep the stewardship card attached so we know

who it is that is giving to the church. We had one card turned in that was cut in half. Thank you for your stewardship love.

Weekly Tithes and Our Offerings: We have placed a small church house on the table in the Narthex and invite you to leave your gifts to support God's work as you depart. You can also mail in your pledges and weekly offerings using our post office address: P.O. Box 1280, Glen Allen, VA 23060-1280

Our Small Group will resume Thursday January 13th at 1 pm: All are welcome as we kick off a new iteration of our small group led by **Chris Rhoden** of VCU. This group is meeting in the sanctuary. Masks are required.

Faces of Laurel Love: Thanks to the ingenious work of our Worship Production Team, our projector is back in action. 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.

Transportation Love: Member Care and Missions is looking for volunteers willing to take one-month shifts to provide transportation for members who are unable to attend church without our love. A sign-up sheet is on the hallway bulletin board by the flower calendar :)

Two Captains Needed: Online Community. Stewardship. We need a captain to nurture and shepherd our online community and we need a captain to run point on our stewardship season. If any of these positions pique your curiosity, please reach out to Ann Cherry. Thank you to Pete MacRae for taking point on our online giving initiative.

Choir Rehearsals: Please let David Clatterbuck, Director of Music, know if you are interested in joining us. We practice on Thursdays at 5:30 pm and will be wearing the Broadway Singing Masks. **The choir will NOT rehearse on December 23 and December 30. Weekly rehearsals will resume on January 6th, 2022.**

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 Highly Recommended: Due to the novel iteration of the Omicron variant of COVID, we are recommending that we all stay masked. 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: At this point we encourage the purchase of the Broadway Singing Mask for those who would like to sing during worship. 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>

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.

LIVE from Laurel Pres! You can virtually connect at our regular service time or any time thereafter. Go to laurelpres.com, choose the "worship" tab, and follow the link to our YouTube page. You can also view our worship services at another time. Should the link not be posted, you can go directly to YouTube and type in Laurel Presbyterian Church and today's date. That should bring you right to our worship service.

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.

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.

December Shepherd of the Month: Kathy Boyce is our Shepherd of the Month. You can reach her at (804) 755-4206. Shepherds provide member care and TLC.

Pastoral Care: You can reach Ann at (804) 508-3850 and if you have trouble reaching her, please use her home cell, 804-873-1990.

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.

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

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 inner knowing that they are loved and a beloved one of our Creator God.

Laurel Presbyterian Church

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, Clerk

Nana Sarfo-Kantanka, Session, MCM Team

Duane Berger, Session, WE Team

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“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.” Luke 1:46b

Let Love Be Known Here