



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Christmas 1*

December 26, 2021 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

Jacob Devol

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

Cherry

The Rev. Ann D.

Janice Tubbesing-Berger

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*Joy to the World (v. 1)*

Hymn No. 134

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Short

Leader: Live joy!

**People: Christ lives among us.**

Leader: Be joy!

**People: Christ is the joy of the world.**

Leader: Hold joy!

**People: Our Lord is born!**

Leader: Be love!

**People: The light of the world shines on!**

\*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

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1 & 3)*

Hymn No. 119

## *RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Beloved One, who blessed us by becoming flesh, we have sought you in high and holy places and yet we are ill-prepared to see your presence among the lowly and poor. We believe you are profound, but we overlook your obvious truths. We are anxious and worried about the unknown and yet we hardly consider that our future always is filled with you. By your love, rebirth us in your image and likeness as tiny God showings of love. By the light of your love, enable us to see that we are all connected, and belong. Through the glow of this newborn child and the eternal gift of the cosmic Christ, remind us that you came not to find us wanting, but to fill us with love, joy, presence and ease, especially in the face of our most glaring contradictions, for we pray this in the name of the One given to us as a newborn babe, 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

*Angels We Have Heard On High (Refrain)*

Hymn No. 113

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

**Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## *PROCLAIMING LOVE*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

FIRST READING OF PROPHECY

Isaiah 11: 1-9 (NRSV)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

CHORAL HYMN *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (Vs. 1 & 3)* Hymn No. 104

SECOND READING OF PROPHECY Isaiah 9: 6-7 (NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

CHORAL HYMN *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (Vs. 1 & 5)* Hymn No. 123

FIRST NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-5 (NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

CHORAL HYMN *Of the Father's Love Begotten (Vs. 1)* Hymn No. 108

SECOND NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2: 1-11  
(NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

CHORAL HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem (Vs. 1 & 4)* Hymn No. 121

FINAL NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING Colossians 3: 12-17 (NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

CHORAL HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (Vs. 1 & 3)* Hymn No. 132

### *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH *The Nicene Creed 1.2* Carol Short

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.

SOLO

*Do You Hear What I Hear?*

Jacob Devol

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Michael Henderson

### *BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD*

SENDING CHORAL HYMN

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain (vs. 1 & 3)*

Hymn No. 136

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

\*POSTLUDE

Jacob Devol

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

**Laurel Welcomes Back Jacob Devol:** It is a joy to welcome Jacob Devol back to Laurel. Jacob serves as the Choral Director at Mills E. Godwin High School.

**Lesson Readers:** A special thank you to Gladys Chamberlayne, Michael Henderson, Diane Jackson, Pete MacRae and Carol Short for serving as our Lesson readers today.

**Lay Reader:** Thank you to Carol Short and Michael Henderson for serving as our liturgists 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 : )

**\*\*Imago Dei, Engraved with Love:** You are invited to take your tree 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.

Know that 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.

**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. Please feel free to take home your poinsettia : )

**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 : )

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

**Thank you to all who Expressed Christmas Love to our Special Family and Member:** Your generosity made love known in a powerful way. Thank you.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 30. Weekly rehearsals will resume on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 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/January Shepherds of the Month:** Kathy Boyce is our Shepherd of the Month for December. You can reach her at (804) 755-4206. Bonnie Poff is the Shepherd of the Month for January. You can reach her at (804) 672-0911. 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.

## 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

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

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

laurelpres.com

“You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.”  
John 18:37a

**Let Love Be Known Here**