



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Epiphany Sunday

January 2, 2022 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

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

We Three Kings of Orient Are (v.1)

Hymn No. 141

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gladys Chamberlayne

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: The light shines inside of the darkness.

Leader: Where shadows have dwelled.

People: Where fear has lingered.

Leader: On this too, the light has shined.

People: Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, and goodwill for all!

*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 HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

Hymn No. 113

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light that penetrates even our darkest nights, forgive us for preferring our own light to yours. Forgive us for turning away from the good news that was born in our own hearts. Forgive us when we, like Herod, let our own vision cloud your vision for us. Forgive us when we follow our own light instead of the star the magi dared to follow. Help us to surrender to your light that shines on inside of our own hearts through the light of that small 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 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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2: 1-12 (NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Call of The Magi

Laurel Choir

SERMON

"Darkness and Light"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

CHORAL RESPONSE

We Three Kings of Orient Are (v. 2)

Laurel Choir

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed 1.2

Gladys Chamberlayne

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.

*EPIPHANY RESPONSE

Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love

Laurel Choir

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Emmanuel, you commanded light to shine out of darkness . . . Therefore,
 we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all
 the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your
 name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: We praise you, most holy God . . . All praise to you, Lord Jesus.

People: Dying you destroyed our death, Rising you restored our life, Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us . . . Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Hymn No. 136

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

POSTLUDE

J. David Clatterbuck

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

****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.

Lay Reader: Thank you to Gladys Chamberlayne for serving as our liturgist today.

Sanctuary Flowers: The flowers are given this day to the glory of God and in honor of Laurel Love and our collective tiny God Showings.

Passing of the Peace: You are invited to stand and greet each other with air hugs and waves in the name of our Beloved One 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 in December. 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 :)

Special thank you and love to our COVID Task Force Members: To Ann Whibty, chair, Brenda MacRae and Mary Scarce for keeping us safe.

New COVID-19 Protocols: The COVID Task Force met during Christmas to advise Session on next steps to keep us safe at worship. The Session has adopted these recommendations: Protective masks are required for all.

- Worship leadership will speak with a mask on.
- Pews are roped off in order for us to sit every other one (thank you Brenda and Pete MacRae); please allow ample distance between you and your neighbor.
- All doors to our worship space will remain open to allow for airflow and a touchless entry.
- We will refrain from hugging, handshaking, or close talking as hard as this is.
- We encourage everyone to stay home with even the slightest hint of cold symptoms or if you are immune compromised. Thankfully we can all participate in worship through our online streaming platform.

Hand sanitizers are available at both entrances, and we are researching freestanding units to replace the bottles. We will ride out this wave too and soon we will be on the other side of this.

Circle Cancelled: Due to the rise of the Omicron variant, Circle is cancelled this month. We will decide month by month erring as always on the side of caution.

Winter Weather: Should we experience winter conditions, we will most likely close out of an abundance of caution. Every attempt will be made to post this notification online, to send out a group email and to activate our phone tree.

Thank you to all who Expressed Christmas Love to our Coal Pit Family and our dear Laurel Member: Your generosity made love known in a powerful way. Thank you.

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

New Office Ordination and Installation: A service of installation and ordination for our new officers will be held on January 30th during our regular morning worship.

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.

Good Samaritan Offering: Today we will receive our Good Samaritan Offering to assist those in our community who need an extra boost of love. Please earmark your checks in the memo line with “Good Samaritan Offering.”

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. We will be reading *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen. This group is meeting in the fellowship hall. Masks are required.

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.

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.

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. **Weekly rehearsals resume this Thursday.**

Singing Alternatives: If you would like to sing during worship, please purchase the Broadway Singing Mask. Otherwise, feel free to participate by humming, tapping and clapping 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.

January Shepherd of the Month: Bonnie Poff is our Shepherd of the Month for January. You can reach her at (804) 672-0911. Shepherds provide member care and TLC

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.

Study Leave: Ann is on study leave from Tuesday January 4, 2022, through Tuesday January 18, 2022. Should you have a pastoral need, please contact either Linda Coulson (804) 519-4507 or Diane Jackson (804) 804-747-6315, our lead elders of our Member Care and Missions Team.

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, and all those battling and treating COVID victims.

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

Gladys Bowls, Elder, SP Team

Linda Coulson, Elder, MCM Team

Denis Ramdas, Elder, SP Team

Diane Jackson, Elder, MCM Team

Stephen Scarce, Elder, SP Team

Brenda MacRae, Elder, MCM Team

Duane Berger, Elder, WE Team

Tod Balsbaugh, Elder, SP Team

Michael Henderson, Elder, Clerk

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“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising
and have come to pay him homage.” Matthew 2:2

Let Love Be Known Here