



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Epiphany 7

February 20, 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

As the Deer

Hymn No. 626

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Whitby

Leader: We come seeking the healing love of God so that we might reflect God's image and likeness.

People: **As Jesus shared the life of Earth, through Christ, we share the life of God, by growing compassion, practicing justice, and learning love.**

Leader: In awe and wonder, let us rejoice in God's presence.

People: **We come to worship God and to celebrate the mystery of God's Love in us and among us.**

*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

Jesus, Light of Joy

Hymn No. 673

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sometimes, O God, your word is too much for us. You ask us to love our enemies, when we can scarcely love our friends as we should. You ask us to give, when we want to take, and to forgive when we want to nurse bitterness. We thank you that you accept us as we are, and that you show us what we can be. Help us to believe that we can be loving, just and compassionate like you, 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: 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 grow in deeper likeness.
Beloved, believe this good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

Hymn No. 581

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING LOVE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15 (NRSV)

ANTHEM

Feed My Lambs

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 6: 27-38(NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Kingdom Life"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

Vision Task Force: The Vision Task Force will meet today right after church in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join.

Officer Training: Our officer training continues this Tuesday, February 22, at 7 pm by Zoom.

Nominating Committee: Our Nominating Committee will meet at 7:30 pm on Wednesday night, February 23rd by Zoom.

Small Group meets Thursdays at 1 pm: Led by **Chris Rhoden** of VCU, we are reading *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen. This group is meeting in the fellowship hall. All are welcome. Please remember that masks are required.

First Sundays: We are bringing our Team Meetings back on the first Sunday of each month right after worship. We have three options for your consideration: Member Care & Missions (MCM), Stewardship & Property (SP), and Worship and Education (WE). Please consult God for where you are most needed :)

Choir Rehearsals: Please let David Clatterbuck, Director of Music know if you are interested in joining us. For the next two weeks, we will be practicing on Wednesday. On February 23, at 5:30 pm, and on March 2, at 5 pm. As always, we will be wearing the Broadway Singing Masks.

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>

A Big Shout-Out of Love: Thanks to the genius ingenuity of Marshall Chamberlayne and Steve Scarce we have a working boiler and a warm building. Our love and gratitude go out to this creative and hardworking team that made love happen here.

Parlor Love: Thanks to the TLC of Brenda MacRae, Linda Coulson, Diane Jackson, Duane Berger, Steve Scarce and Chris Rhoden, our Parlor is undergoing a face lift. Please feel free to stop by to check it out :)

Lent is Around the Corner: We will be practicing together how to lead with the heart of God as we pilgrimage with our Suffering Servant for the 40-day journey into the wilderness. A guided prayer chart will be provided as a way to show love to yourself and to our world. Holy Week will include another wonderful cantata on Palm Sunday, a Maundy Thursday service, and a Good Friday experience. Weekly Lenten devotions will be included in our bulletins to deepen our walk with Jesus as he surrenders to Love.

Ash Wednesday: March 2nd at 6 pm we will gather as a beloved community to mark the beginning of Lent with the disposition of ashes, composed of old palms from past Palm Sundays.

The Lamb Basket: The Circle has asked that we think outside of the pantry box and bring in canned or boxed items that we find on sale to refill our Lamb basket. The donation box is located in the Narthex.

Newsletter Love: Do you have a congregational story of love to share? Of seeing love in action? Of sharing member news? Consider writing an article for the newsletter. You can also submit photos, too. Just send this information to Brenda and Peter MacRae by February 19th (next Saturday) at pamacrae@comcast.net

February is “Reach Out Month”: This is the month to reach out to new and old friends to pass on some Laurel Love. We are one phone call, email or text away from making someone’s day :)

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.

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.

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.

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

One Captain Needed for our Online Community: We need a captain to nurture and shepherd our online community. If this opportunity captures your imagination, please reach out to Ann Cherry. Thank you to Pete MacRae for taking point on our online giving initiative and Tod Balsbaugh for taking point on stewardship.

COVID Notification Updated: The Session adopted this policy to reflect our values around practicing love for each other as we engage our evolving pandemic life. If you have been at a church event or at the church when preschoolers were present and test positive for COVID, please let Reverend Ann know or a member of the COVID Task Force (Brenda MacRae, Mary Scarce or Ann Whitby).

Important to note that it will be up to the discretion of the person with COVID to self-disclose and to contact trace. Should this be difficult to undertake, the COVID task force and session, as well as Reverend Ann, are happy to help in any way they can.

When we have a member of our community test positive, our COVID Task Force will meet and then advise the Session.

One thing we have learned through this global pandemic is that we are all interconnected and impact each other. The good news is that we are all in this together and held together by Laurel Love, which is the Love of God, as lived out among this Body of Christ. We are committed to each other and to living in this respectful way of love.

COVID-19 Protocols: The Session has adopted these recommendations on the advice of our COVID Task Force to keep us safe at worship:

- Protective masks are required for all. Please consider upgrading for better protection.
- Pews are roped off in order for us to sit every other one; 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.
- Worship leaders may speak without their masks but will remain masked while seated.

Freestanding hand sanitizer stations are now available at both entrances thanks to a generous church gift. As Julian of Norwich reminds us, “all shall be well” and it appears that this latest surge of COVID is receding and soon we will be on the other side of this variant.

Free COVID Test Kits: Four COVID tests are available per household either by going here <https://www.covidtests.gov/> or by calling this number [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233). If you need assistance obtaining this resource please let us know.

February Shepherds of the Month: Gladys and Marshall Chamberlayne are our Shepherds of the Month for February. You can reach the Chamberlaynes at (804) 755-6172. Our 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.

Call to Prayer: Let us be in prayer for all those who are suffering, who are marginalized, who are carrying heavy burdens, who are grieving, and for all first responders. Let us continue to pray that we will claim the Love that claims us in Christ as beloved ones of our Creator God.

Laurel Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry, Minister
J. David Clatterbuck, Director of Music
Chris Rhoden, Small Group Leader
Linda Coulson, Elder, MCM Team
Diane Jackson, Elder, MCM Team
Brenda MacRae, Elder, MCM Team
Tod Balsbaugh, Elder, SP Team

Rob McBane, Treasurer
Wayne Deisher, Bookkeeper
Gladys Bowles, Elder, SP Team
Denis Ramdas, Elder, SP Team
Stephen Scearce, Elder, SP Team
Duane Berger, Elder, WE Team
Michael Henderson, Elder, Clerk

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Let Love Be Known Here