



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Lent 4

March 27, 2022 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

David Clatterbuck

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

Michael Henderson

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days (vs. 1 & 3)*

No. 166

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Short

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity.**

Leader: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous!

People: **We shall shout for joy for in Christ we are a new creation!** (Adapted from Ps 32)

*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.

*HYMN

To God Be the Glory

No. 634

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Chris Rhoden

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Reconciling God, how we long to be part of your ministry of reconciliation. How we long to let everything old pass away and let everything new form us into new beings in Christ. How we long to see the world with your eyes. Nonetheless, it is so easy for

us to disregard our own inherent dignity and each other's. It is so easy for us to dismiss those who are different from us. It is so easy for us to distance ourselves from those who disappoint us or who remind us of our own frailty. Forgive us, Beloved One, and remind us that we are all your people, in need of your reconciling love. Illuminate the eyes of our hearts so we might see each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, for we pray all of these things in the name of our Suffering Servant, 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!

*OUR 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 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 (NRSV)

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

ANTHEM *Just As I Am, I Come* Laurel Choir

SERMON *"In Christ, We are a New Creation!"* Chris Rhoden

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN *There Is Now a New Creation (vs. 1-3)* No. 774

*PROFESSION OF FAITH *Philippians 2: 5-11* Carol Short

We profess that Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

*OUR RESPONSE

Doxology

Hymn No. 606

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Michael Henderson

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

Soon and Very Soon (vs. 1-3)

No. 384

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Chris Rhoden

*POSTLUDE

David Clatterbuck

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

Laurel Welcomes Chris Rhoden to the Pulpit: It is a joy to welcome Chris Rhoden this morning to our pulpit. Chris is both our small group leader and our therapist in residence and founder of Kettle o'Fish Counseling. He is completing his graduate degree in counseling from VCU. He is married to Kathryn and is the son-in-law of Sue Anderson.

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

Sanctuary Flowers: The flowers are given this day by Elizabeth Stevenson to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, Agnes Henley Stevenson.

Passing of the Peace: You are invited to stand and greet each other with waves, air hugs and elbow bumps 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 our Friendship Pads. It is important that we have a way to contact you even if you think we might already have your information. Please provide us with a (cell) phone or email contact. Friendship Pads can be found at the end of the pews :)

Masks are Now Optional: Our Session adopted the recommendations of our COVID Task Force and masks are now optional. We want you to feel supported in whatever choice is right for you :) Lots of gratitude to the COVID Task Force of Brenda MacRae, Mary Scearce and Ann Whitby.

Lent is Still Here: We are practicing together how to lead with the heart of God as we pilgrimage with our Suffering Servant over these 40 days in the wilderness. A guided prayer chart, *Leading from the Heart of God*, is provided as a way to show love to yourself and to our world. Weekly devotions are included in our bulletins to deepen our walk with our Suffering Servant as he surrenders to Love and shows us how to do likewise. Holy Week will include another wonderful cantata on Palm Sunday, a Maundy Thursday service, and a Good Friday experience.

Zoom Coffee Hour Tomorrow at 10 am: Please join us tomorrow, Monday, March 28, at 10 am, to talk about our Lenten Journey. A Zoom link will be sent out to you either late tonight or first thing tomorrow morning :)

Our Small Group will be back on Thursday April 14: Led by **Chris Rhoden**, we are starting a new book, *Let your Life Speak*, by Parker Palmer. All are welcome.

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.

Ukraine Love: Many of you have wondered how we might support peace efforts in Europe, displaced and disrupted families, and medical aid for those impacted. The first thing we can do is to keep praying. The second thing we can do is to help fund relief efforts. You can do this through:

- The Presbyterian Church (Missions):
pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/
- The Red Cross: redcross.org/donate/donation.html/
- St. Jude's Research Hospital (coordinating care and evacuation of children undergoing treatment): stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html

Transportation Love: Our MCM Team is coordinating rides for those unable to attend our in-person worship. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway if you would like to be a Laurel "uber" driver. Contact Gladys Chamberlayne or Mary Jane Bowlin if you would like to request a ride or for more information. Gladys can be reached at either sidneychamberlayne@comcast.net or 1-804-755-6172 and Mary Jane can be reached at either maryjanebowlin@gmail.com or 1-804-221-1072.

Companion Program: Member Care & Mission (MCM) is exploring whether there is a need to establish a Companion Program for members of our congregation. The companion would provide company for members of our congregation in order for their caregiver to run errands, go to lunch, or see the doctor themselves. If you and your family would be interested in this program, please contact Mary Jane Bowlin at 1-804-672-6009 (maryjanebowlin@gmail.com) or Linda Coulson at 1-804-519-4507 (appygirl2@hotmail.com).

Easter Hydrangea Orders Accepted Now: Help decorate the sanctuary with your purchase of lovely hydrangea plants. Order forms included in bulletins through April 10th. Please use this

form to specify number of plants, and the name (s) of the person (s) to be honored and/or remembered, and place in the “church offering house” along with a check for \$22 per plant ordered. You may also order by calling Duane Berger at (804) 876-3414 and leaving a message, or by emailing laurelpres@verizon.net. **Last day to order is Sunday, April 10th.**

Name Tags: The MCM Team is interested in bringing back our name tags and wondered how many of us might still have our old ones at home? If you do, please note it in the Friendship Pad.

Kettle o’Fish: Each of us is created by the God of the universe with purpose and infused with meaning - no matter the season of life in which we find ourselves. Interested in exploring yours? Give Chris Rhoden a call at 1-804-220-1583 “Be known. Be loved.”

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

March Shepherds of the Month: Our Shepherd of the Month for March is Gladys Bowles. You can reach Gladys at (804) 266-0541. Our shepherds provide member care and TLC.

Rev. Ann: Will be back in action tomorrow and host our Lenten conversation by Zoom. She has been working on a D. Min paper about the knowability of God. Prayers invited.

Call to Prayer: Let us be in prayer for all those fleeing from Ukraine, for all those providing support and supplies to refugees, and to all those working for peace. Let us be in prayer for all those fighting addiction, suffering, fighting cancer, carrying heavy burdens, grieving, and who are marginalized in any way. Let us continue to pray that we will claim the Love that claims us in our Suffering Servant, by making love known through our healing work.

Laurel Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry, Minister

J. David Clatterbuck, Director of Music

Chris Rhoden, Small Group Leader/Therapist in Residence

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 Scarce, Elder, SP Team

Duane Berger, Elder, WE Team

Michael Henderson, Elder, Clerk

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Let Love Be Known Here