



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

*Pentecost 15*

September 18, 2022 10:00 AM

*Where Love is Known*

PRELUDE

Nancy Newins

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*Spirit of the Living God*

Hymn No. 288

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pete MacRae

Leader: Who are we without you, O Lord?

**People: Who are we without your Love?**

Leader: We huddle up to remind ourselves . . .

**People: It is you who founded the earth! It is you that fashioned us!**

Leader: Come, let us worship our Founder!

**People: Let us join in the celebration of authentic living!**

\*HYMN

*How Firm a Foundation (vs. 1, 3, 5)*

No.463

*RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creator of all that is and is to come, we wander endlessly away from your image and likeness. We write off your divine imprint as if your creation of us were a mere afterthought. We feed the wolves of shame, of mistaken identity, of entitlement, and miss that we were made from Love to be Love. Shake us awake. Open our eyes. Speak tenderly into our ears. Remind us that we are fashioned in awe so that we might live beholding your beauty in us and in this, your world. For we pray all of these things in the name of Jesus, who is and was and always will be our Christ.**

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 claim the love that claims us in Christ. Friends, believe this good news!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*OUR RESPONSE

*Gloria Patri*

Hymn No. 581

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## *PROCLAIMING LOVE*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 8: 18-9:1 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

*Sweet Rivers of Mercy*

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 16:1-13 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*"What you Feed . . . Grows"*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

## *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*HYMN

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

No. 475

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The Belhar Confession*

Pete MacRae

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.**

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.**

\*OUR RESPONSE *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Hymn No. 607

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Michael Henderson

**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.**

### *BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD*

\*HYMN *Abide With Me (vs. 1-4)* No. 836

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

\*POSTLUDE Nancy Newins

\*RECESSION AND GREETING The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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

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

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The flowers are given this day to the glory of God by Laurel Love to Claudia Hicks for all of her love to our church.

**Passing of the Peace:** You are invited to stand and greet each other 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 and provide us with a (cell) phone or email contact. The red pads can be found at the end of the pews.

**Session Today:** Our Session will meet today right after worship in the Parlor.

**“Untapped” Launches Tuesday Night:** All men are welcomed at JJ’s Grille at 4:30 pm on Tuesday night. Chris Rhoden will be joining the conversation as we unpack contemporary issues through a faith lens. JJ’s is located in the Cross Ridge Shopping Center, 10298 Staples Mill Rd.

**“Beloved” Small Group Meets Wednesday:** Please join us this Wednesday at 1 pm in the Parlor as we continue reading *Falling Upward*, a book by Richard Rohr. *We are now meeting every Wednesday.*

**Lunch Bunch on Thursday:** We have a reservation for 12 people at 11:30 am at Hobnob, a restaurant located at 6010 Hermitage Rd, Richmond, VA 23228. To reserve your seat at the table, please email Ann at [laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com](mailto:laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com) by tomorrow.

**Vision Task Force Next Sunday:** The VTF will meet right after worship next Sunday.

**“Finding God in the Cracks of Loss:”** Loss is hard and the impact of unprocessed grief can linger for a lifetime. Come and join us next Monday, September 26, at 6 pm, in the parlor, as we begin an 8-week journey to find God in the cracks of our losses. This small group will dive into what makes us so human and vulnerable, and yet surprisingly, opens us up to the fresh movement of the Spirit.

**“Uncorked” Next Tuesday Night at 5:30 pm:** The women of the church will gather for Uncorked next week September 26<sup>th</sup>, in the Parlor to discuss contemporary issues through a faith lens.

**Our Choir:** Our choir rehearses on Thursdays at 5:30 pm. All are welcome.

**Director of Music Search Team:** The Session has appointed Glenda Miller, chair, and Gladys Bowles, Vickie Chapman, and Denis Ramdas to serve as our Director of Music search committee. The job description is posted. We will keep you updated as information is available. Please keep the Search Team in your prayers.

**Online giving Coming to Laurel:** The Session approved an online giving option this past Spring. The project is nearing completion, and the opportunity to give online will be rolled out on October 2nd. Online giving allows a donor to make contributions using a credit or debit card through a safe portal. About half of the churches in the Presbytery already provide this option. Special thanks to Pete MacRae for researching and running point on this project.

**Kettle o’Fish Counseling:** Each of us is created by God with purpose and infused with meaning no matter our season of life. If you are interested in exploring yours, please reach out to Chris Rhoden at (804) 220-1583. “Be known. Be loved.”

**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.

**Weekly Tithes and Our Offerings:** We have placed a small church house on the table in the back of our outdoor worship 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

**Interested in Joining Laurel?:** We would love to have you. If you are interested in joining this sweet church, please contact Rev. Ann Cherry at (804) 508-3850.

**We want you to be comfortable:** You are invited to stand, stretch, and move during our worship service or even to remain seated as the spirit moves you. Your comfort is key, so please make yourself at home.

**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.

**September Shepherd of the Month:** Our Shepherd of the Month for September is Michelle McBane. You can reach Michelle at (804) 432-3760. Our shepherds provide member care and TLC.

**Call to Prayer:** Let us be in prayer for all those impacted by the Ukraine/Russian war or violence, fighting addiction, battling cancer, carrying heavy burdens, grieving, or suffering, and for all of us who are struggling to claim the love that claims us as beloved ones, and to live it out in this world.

## Laurel Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry, Minister  
Chris Rhoden, Pastoral Counselor-in-Residence  
Duane Berger, Clerk, Elder, WE  
Michael Henderson, Documentarian, WE  
Linda Coulson, Elder, MCM Team  
Diane Jackson, Elder, MCM Team  
Brenda MacRae, Elder, MCM Team

Rob McBane, Treasurer  
Peter MacRae, Bookkeeper  
Tod Balsbaugh, Elder, SP Team  
Gladys Bowles, Elder, SP Team  
Denis Ramdas, Elder, SP Team  
Stephen Scarce, Elder, SP Team

You can contact Rev. Ann Cherry at (804) 508-3850 or at [laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com](mailto:laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com)

You can reach Chris Rhoden at (804) 220-1583 or at [chris@kettleofish.com](mailto:chris@kettleofish.com)

You can reach Gingerbread Cottage Preschool at (804)755-1667 or [gingerbreadcottagepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:gingerbreadcottagepreschool@gmail.com)

### Where Love Is Known

P.O. Box 1280, Glen Allen, VA 23060-1280

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[laurelpres.com](http://laurelpres.com)

Luke 16: 1-13, *The Message*

## **The Story of the Crooked Manager**

16<sup>1-2</sup> Jesus said to his disciples, “There was once a rich man who had a manager. He got reports that the manager had been taking advantage of his position by running up huge personal expenses. So he called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? You’re fired. And I want a complete audit of your books.’

<sup>3-4</sup>“The manager said to himself, ‘What am I going to do? I’ve lost my job as manager. I’m not strong enough for a laboring job, and I’m too proud to beg. . . . Ah, I’ve got a plan. Here’s what I’ll do . . . then when I’m turned out into the street, people will take me into their houses.’

<sup>5</sup>“Then he went at it. One after another, he called in the people who were in debt to his master. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

<sup>6</sup>“He replied, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’

“The manager said, ‘Here, take your bill, sit down here—quick now—write fifty.’

<sup>7</sup>“To the next he said, ‘And you, what do you owe?’

“He answered, ‘A hundred sacks of wheat.’

“He said, ‘Take your bill, write in eighty.’

<sup>8-9</sup>“Now here’s a surprise: The master praised the crooked manager! And why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this regard than law-abiding citizens. They are on constant alert, looking for angles, surviving by their wits. I want you to be smart in the same way—but for what is *right*—using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you’ll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on good behavior.”

## **God Sees Behind Appearances**

<sup>10-13</sup> Jesus went on to make these comments:

If you’re honest in small things,  
    you’ll be honest in big things;  
If you’re a crook in small things,  
    you’ll be a crook in big things.  
If you’re not honest in small jobs,  
    who will put you in charge of the store?  
No worker can serve two bosses:  
    He’ll either hate the first and love the second  
Or adore the first and despise the second.  
    You can’t serve both God and the Bank.