



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

*Pentecost 16*

September 25, 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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Ann Whitby

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*Spirit of the Living God*

Hymn No. 288

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gladys Chamberlain

Leader: Even when we are lost and uncertain, God is there in our darkness!

**People: Even when we cannot see, God raises up prophets and storytellers to remind us of who you are, and to whom we belong.**

Leader: Even when we are afraid, God, continues to encourage us to move forward even with our fears.

**People: Even when we have abandoned hope, God tickles us with love and shows us how to see with your kingdom eyes.**

Leader: Even when all else fails,

**People: God is smack dab in the middle of our distress, loving us still, and giving us hope to invest in our future.**

\*HYMN

*Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun (vs. 1, 2, 5)*

No.265

*RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the Possible, against all odds you are calling us to be your church in this time and in this place, but we are afraid of embracing it. We are afraid of gambling what little we have for a future that we can barely see on the horizon. Yet, you call us to go forward with our fears, as people of hope. Yet, like the Babylonians, we have lived so**

**long in a foreign land that it is almost impossible to see that this land has been given for us to cultivate for your kingdom. It feels hostile and not conducive for growth and development. Forgive our small-God mentality. Forgive our lackluster dreams. Forgive our faithlessness. Give us the courage to follow you even if it means stepping out in great faith and throwing "caution to the wind," for we pray this 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 32: 1-5 (The Message)

ANTHEM

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 32: 6-15 (The Message)

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

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*"Against all Odds – Buy!"*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

## *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*HYMN

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

No. 65

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The Belhar Confession*

Gladys Chamberlain

**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 *Be Thou My Vision* No. 450

\*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 Gladys Chamberlain and Michael Henderson for serving as our liturgists today.

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The flowers are given this day to the glory of God by Phyllis Perross in loving memory of her mother, Laura Perross.

**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.

**The Belhar Confession:** The Belhar Confession was added to the PC (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions by the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in 2016. It was a statement of faith written in 1982 to reflect the union of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church and the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa.

**Vision Task Force Meets Today:** The VTF will meet right after worship today in the Parlor.

**“Finding God in the Cracks of Loss” Starts Tomorrow Night:** Come and join us tomorrow night 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, also opens us up to the fresh movement of the Spirit. This group is led by Chris Rhoden and Ann Cherry.

**“Uncorked” Meets Tuesday Night:** All women are welcomed at 5:30 on Tuesday night to join the conversation as we unpack contemporary issues through a faith lens. We will meet in the Parlor.

**“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.

**Last Day for Nancy Newins:** Please extend some Laurel Love to Nancy in gratitude for her service as our music sub for September.

**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.

**Annual Church Directory Update – Not just for “Members”:** The directory will be updated in October. If you have any changes to your information or would like to be added to our directory, please send your information to [marcia.deisher@comcast.net](mailto:marcia.deisher@comcast.net) or provide this data to Marcy Deisher in person on Sunday mornings. This information is also needed for our regular visitors who will be listed as friends of the church. The directory includes your name, address, email address and phone number (cell and home). You can decide what information you would like listed with your name. This information is for church contact purposes only and is not distributed outside the church family. Please submit by Halloween.

**World Communion Sunday Next Week:** Next week we will be celebrating World Communion Sunday with Christians across the globe.

**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, Kettle o'Fish Pastoral Counselor  
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

### Jeremiah 32: 1-15, *The Message*

32 <sup>1-5</sup> The Message Jeremiah received from GOD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah. It was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was holding Jerusalem under siege. Jeremiah was shut up in jail in the royal palace. Zedekiah, king of Judah, had locked him up, complaining, “How dare you preach, saying, ‘GOD says, I’m warning you: I will hand this city over to the king of Babylon and he will take it over. Zedekiah king of Judah will be handed over to the Chaldeans right along with the city. He will be handed over to the king of Babylon and forced to face the music. He’ll be hauled off to Babylon where he’ll stay until I deal with him. GOD’s Decree. Fight against the Babylonians all you want—it won’t get you anywhere.’”

<sup>6-7</sup> Jeremiah said, “GOD’s Message came to me like this: Prepare yourself! Hanamel, your uncle Shallum’s son, is on his way to see you. He is going to say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. You have the legal right to buy it.’

<sup>8</sup> “And sure enough, just as GOD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me while I was in jail and said, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin, for you have the legal right to keep it in the family. Buy it. Take it over.’

“That did it. I knew it was GOD’s Message.

<sup>9-12</sup> “So I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel. I paid him seventeen silver shekels. I followed all the proper procedures: In the presence of witnesses I wrote out the bill of sale, sealed it, and weighed out the money on the scales. Then I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy that contained the contract and its conditions and also the open copy—and gave them to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah. All this took place in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and the witnesses who had signed the deed, as the Jews who were at the jail that day looked on.

<sup>13-15</sup> “Then, in front of all of them, I told Baruch, ‘These are orders from GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel: Take these documents—both the sealed and the open deeds—and put them for safekeeping in a pottery jar. For GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel, says, “Life is going to return to normal. Homes and fields and vineyards are again going to be bought in this country.’”