



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Advent 1

November 27, 2022 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE	Don Moro
RINGING OF THE HOUR	Janice Berger
WELCOME BELOVED ONES	The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
MINUTE FOR MISSION	Diane Jackson/Tod Balsbaugh

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP	Don Morro	
ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING	<i>The Candle of Hope</i>	Laurel Sunday School Class
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Diane Jackson	

Leader: Keep awake.

People: Christ is coming.

Leader: Make way for the Lord.

People: Love is coming.

Leader: Prepare the way.

People: Our Savior is coming.

*HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

No. 667

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION	The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
PRAYER OF CONFESSION	

God of all time, remind us that you are always with us, in every space and nook and cranny of our lives. Strengthen us, that we might pay attention to the signs of your presence that surround us all the time. When our feet wander, guide us back to your path. When our worries consume us, steer us back to your everlasting love. When our attention drifts, lead us back to you. When we squander time, awaken us to be

more present. When we lose sight of our lineage, remind us that you are present in all time, connecting our yesterdays with our todays, and our todays, with our tomorrows. So that we might be about preparing the way for your kingdom of love, for we pray this in the name of that babe to come, 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 all Bethlehem Bound. And because we are, we can always take our kneeling places, and claim the love that claims us at the stable.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*OUR RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

Hymn No. 581

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

PROCLAIMING LOVE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2: 3-5 and Psalm 122: 6-9 (NRSVue)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Don Morro

SCRIPTURE

Romans 13: 11-14 and Matthew 24: 36-44 (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Keep Awake!"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

No. 104

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

Diane Jackson

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

*OUR RESPONSE *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Hymn No. 606

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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 *Soon and Very Soon* No. 384

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*POSTLUDE Don Morro

*RECESSION AND GREETING The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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

Lay Reader: Thank you to Diane Jackson for serving as our liturgist today.

Welcome Back to Don Moro: Today we are pleased to welcome back Don Moro to Laurel. Don has been a substitute organist in the Richmond area for over 14 years. He studied at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he received organ lessons from Dr. David Craighead. He lives in North Chesterfield with his wife, Deborah, and three sons.

Sanctuary Flowers: The flowers are given this day by Bonnie Poff to the glory of God and in memory of her grandmother, Ruth Pretious.

Advent Wreath Lighters: Thank you to our Sunday School class for serving as our Advent wreath lighters today – Michael Henderson, Mary Scearce and Mary Jane Bowlin. This year we have asked our small groups of the church to serve as our Advent Wreath Lighters.

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.

TODAY: Advent Wreath Making (for our homes) with Pizza: Stay a after worship today to create your own Advent wreath. Candles, greens, and PIZZA are supplied.

Two Advent Devotional Small Group Start-Ups: Starting Tuesday night, we will be hosting two small groups to dig into Advent for a more impactful journey. Please come and savor this “thin space” as we anticipate the birth that changed all others. Ann is leading both groups and Chris will co-lead the in-person group.

This Tuesday Night at 7:30 pm: We will gather by Zoom. A link will be sent out to all on our email “listserv” to participate.

This Wednesday at 1 pm: We will offer an in-person group meeting in the Parlor. This is the Beloved group.

The cost for the Advent devotional book is \$8. Books are in the parlor on the table with a box for you to drop a check (or cash) to Chris Rhoden.

“Uncorked” Tuesday Night at 5:30 pm: Come and join us in the Parlor for a lively conversation about current events as we mull it over from a faith perspective. Ann Whitby is on tap for our appetizers.

Have a Favorite Christmas Carol? Let us know. On the 4th Sunday of Advent, we will have a special service of Lessons and Carols. Use the newsprint in the coatrack area to record your top picks. Consult the hymnal nearby to make sure it is a hymn :) We need your favs by December 4th.

We Need your Input: What has been your experience of Laurel church? Rev. Ann will be asking Session this same question. To record your response, please go to the Parlor and use the Expo Markers (for white boards only) and leave your responses under each of these headings (one question per white board). No need to identify yourself, we just want you to identify your experience of this church in three areas. All people are welcome to participate. If you are a new attendee or member then you would start on the second white board with the question, *The way we are.*

The way we were:

The way we are:

The way we want to be:

Beholding with Spirit: As we approach the new year, we are looking for “Beholders” – those interested in learning how to actively “see and behold” Christ in the other. The goal is to equip

“beholders” with “seeing” and “listening” skills in order to walk alongside others in our church. We are trying to move from a pastor centered church to the Body of Christ – where we can care for one another. There will be an informational meeting on this emerging ministry on Wednesday, December 14, at 3:00 pm in the Parlor. Both Ann and Chris will be coordinating this ministry. Please consider joining us even if you think that you cannot meet people in person. Telephone, text, and email conversations are powerful tools for walking alongside and beholding another.

Stewardship Ahead: Look for a packet to have arrived in the mail. **We are asking that pledge cards be returned to us by December 11th.** Extra pledge cards are available near where we pick up bulletins. This year we are making a big ask – that you consider adding 9% to your pledge amount over last year’s gift in order to continue our ministry funding at the same level. We know that inflation has impacted all of us, so pray about how you might rethink your home budget so that we can continue to invest in God’s vision for us at Laurel. For additional information, please touch base with Tod Balsbaugh, our Stewardship Lead, and Ann Whitby. A special shout-out to both Tod and Ann Whitby for their visioning and execution of our stewardship love.

JOY Offering this Advent: Every year during the Advent season, from November 27th through December 18th, we come together to support the Christmas Joy special offering. Laurel Presbyterian Church continues to make and keep our vital promises for this mission. Please help us to support God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

Poinsettias: We can help Laurel decorate for Advent by purchasing red poinsettias for \$11.50 each. Orders are needed by Sunday, December 11th. Just use the form in the bulletin for your dedication and drop this along with your check earmarked, “Christmas Flowers” in the small white church in the narthex. You can also mail this into the church office. See Duane or Janice Berger for more information.

Christmas Eve Service: Our Christmas Eve service will be celebrated at high noon on Saturday, December 24th.

Greening the Sanctuary Love: A big thank you to all of you who were here yesterday to prepare our sanctuary and building for Advent. We appreciate your love to make us beautiful for this season.

Advent Practice: We are including daily meditations with each week’s emailed bulletin for your practice at home. Try to slow down and take time each day to sit with God to prepare for the birth of this One to come. Try lighting a candle as you pray along, and incorporate your DIY Advent Wreath in the process.

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

Online Giving is Active: Online giving allows a donor to make contributions using a credit or debit card through a safe portal. You can use the QR code (quick response) by opening your camera app on your phone and scanning it. The QR code is found in the pews and on the back of this bulletin,

and it will link you to the secure donation site. You may also choose the new "Online Giving" tab at LaurelPres.com and follow the link there, or the instructions for downloading the giving app.

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.

A COVID PSA: The COVID Task Force would like us to remember that if we do test positive, to let the people around us know, specifically the people we had contact with at church, and sat around at worship.

Clay Pots Still Needed: Please dig out those unused clay planter pots lying around your house and bring them to the Parlor. We are collecting for our Christmas service project. Our hope is to paint the pots and grow paperwhites to share with those who are not able to join us for in-person worship.

Interested in Joining Laurel?: We will be receiving new members on December 11. We would love to have you as part of this group. If you are interested in joining this sweet church, please contact Rev. Ann Cherry at (804) 508-3850.

Director of Music Search Team: The Session has appointed Glenda Miller, chair, and Gladys Bowles, Vickie Chaplin, 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.

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."

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.

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.

November Shepherd of the Month: Our Shepherds of the Month of November are Margaret and Reggie Fitch. You can reach the Fitches at 804-755-7201. Our shepherds provide member care and TLC.

Call to Prayer: Let us be in prayer for all those impacted by the recent college campus violence, for the Walmart and night club tragedy, for our Director of Music Search, for those digging out from heavy snows, for our stewardship campaign, for Laurel to embody the bold vision God has set for us, for all of us to claim our gratitude in God, for the Ukraine/Russian war or violence, those that are fighting addiction, battling cancer, healing from COVID, 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 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

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

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

Where Love Is Known

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laurelpres.com



Our QR Code for online donations

Use your camera app to open this link to donate

Isaiah 2: 1-5, *The Message*

There's a day coming
when the mountain of GOD's House
Will be The Mountain—
solid, towering over all mountains.
All nations will river toward it,
people from all over set out for it.
They'll say, "Come,
let's climb GOD's Mountain,
go to the House of the God of Jacob.

He'll show us the way he works
so we can live the way we're made."
Zion's the source of the revelation.
GOD's Message comes from Jerusalem.
He'll settle things fairly between nations.
He'll make things right between many peoples.
They'll turn their swords into shovels,
their spears into hoes.
No more will nation fight nation;
they won't play war anymore.
Come, family of Jacob,
let's live in the light of GOD.

Psalm 122: 6-9, *The Message*

Pray for Jerusalem's peace!
Prosperity to all you Jerusalem-lovers!
Friendly insiders, get along!
Hostile outsiders, keep your distance!
For the sake of my family and friends,
I say it again: live in peace!
For the sake of the house of our God, GOD,
I'll do my very best for you.

Romans 13: 11-14 *The New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition*

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off^[a] the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 24:36-44, *The New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition*

³⁶ "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day^[b] your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.