



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Advent 2

December 4, 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

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Don Moro

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Candle of Peace

Beloved Small Group

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tod Balsbaugh

Leader: Live peace.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: Be peace.

People: Make his paths straight!

Leader: Hold peace.

People: Christ is coming!

*HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

No. 82

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Emmanuel, we confess that we do not take seriously your coming again into our lives. We do not believe that salvation is near or that we are be your flickering flames of hope and peace, pushing back the darkness. We have become numb to joy and rebirth. We think that is just another fable. So, we just continue in our ordinary routines, going about our ordinary Christmas preparations, embodying our ordinary family traditions without preparing the way for you to come again into our lives.

Forgive our mindlessness and fill us with both clarity and a sense of urgency, to wait with loving intention and with hope, 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. Friends, Believe this Good News!

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 11: 1-10 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

"Emmanuel"

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3: 1-12 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Change of Heart? Yes!"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

No. 163

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed 1.2

Tod Balsbaugh

*OUR RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn No. 606

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Emmanuel, you commanded light to shine out of darkness . . . Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: We praise you, most holy God . . . All praise to you, Lord Jesus:

People: Dying you destroyed our death, Rising you restored our life, Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us ... Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

As the Wind Song

No. 292

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*POSTLUDE

Don Moro

*RECESSION AND GREETING

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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

Lay Reader: Thank you to Tod Balsbaugh for serving as our liturgist today.

Don Moro, Guest Organist: 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 Laurel Love to the glory of God and in honor of Michael Henderson for serving as our Clerk in the first part of this year, and now as our Documentarian. We are grateful for your service. Michael is rotating off of the Session after serving two consecutive terms.

Advent Wreath Lighters: Thank you to our Beloved Small Group for serving as our Advent wreath lighters today, and to Judy Smith for coordinating this group of voices and lighters. 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.

Ginger Lanier's Life Celebrated Today: Please stay for a 11:30 am Celebration of Life service of Virginia Loving Lanier who died November 16th. A light reception will follow the worship service to thank God for her precious life.

Shout-Out to Howard Lawrence and our Choir: Gratitude to Howard for directing our wonderful choir this day.

Advent Devotional Small Groups:

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. You can use the same link for each meeting.

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

Wednesdays at Laurel this Week: We will continue our clay pot project of planting paperwhites for those who are not able to join us for worship. Join us on Wednesday at 2:30 pm for this community service event.

Teams to Meet Next Sunday: We shifted our calendar a week to celebrate the life of Ginger Lanier.

Pledge Dedication Next Sunday: Find that pledge card and bring it to church with you next Sunday. We will be dedicating these gifts to the glory of God. 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.

Have a Favorite Christmas Carol? Last call to 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.

Calling Lesson and Carol Readers: We are looking for readers for our Lessons and Carol Service on Sunday, December 18th. It would be awesome to have some of our new members participate if this brings you energy. If this interests you, please contact Rev. Ann.

Last Call for Input: What has been your experience of Laurel church? 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:

Vote for Laurel's Tag Line: Take a moment to register your vision for Laurel summarized in our new tag line. In the Narthex you will see a ballot box and the 4 possibilities on a poster board. Here are your options:

Enter to Worship, Leave to Serve
Come as a Guest, Leave as a Friend
Homecoming for Your Heart
Let the "Laurel Love" Light Shine on You

Coal Pit Love Due Wrapped Next Sunday: We are excited to be sponsoring **ALL** 14 children at Coal Pit this year for our Christmas mission. Capped at \$20, please shop for toys and clothing, and bring back your wrapped gifts with the original tag attached. Leave gifts under the tree by next Sunday, December 11th, so we can distribute them to Coal Pit before their Christmas break.

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.

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.

Order your Poinsettias by Next Sunday: We can help Laurel decorate for Advent by purchasing red poinsettias for \$11.50 each. Orders are needed by NEXT 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.

Coming Soon - Christmas Family Dinner Love: Stay tuned for more information about our food drive for a family at Virginia Randolph School. All food items will need to be at the church by December 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Fitch at (804) 755-7201 or Brenda MacRae. at (804) 314-6671.

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

No Service on Christmas Day: We will gather again to worship on New Year's Day.

New's Year Day Service: We will kick off the new year on Sunday, January 1st , with a **noon** service.

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. Light a candle as you pray. Make space for God to be born again in you.

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.

Last Call for Clay Pots: 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 next Sunday, 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.

December Shepherd of the Month: Our December Shepherd of the Month is Kathy Boyce. You can reach Kathy at 804-755-4260. 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 nightclub tragedies, for those digging out from heavy snows, for those suffering in the Ukraine/Russian war or from any violence, those who are fighting addiction, battling cancer, healing from COVID, carrying heavy burdens, grieving, or suffering. We pray also for our Director of Music Search, 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, 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

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

9675 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

laurelpres.com



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