



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Advent 4*

December 18, 2022 10:00 AM

*Where Love is Known*

PRELUDE		Don Moro
RINGING OF THE HOUR		Janice Berger
MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>"O What a Story"</i>	Laurel Choir
WELCOME BELOVED ONES		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
MINUTE FOR MISSION		Sue Bell

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING	<i>The Candle of Joy</i>	Circle
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Michael Whitby

Leader: Hold Hope!

**People:** "Hark the Herald, Angels Sing!"

Leader: Hold Peace.

**People:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!"

Leader: Hold Joy.

**People:** "What Child is this!"

Leader: Hold love!

**People:** "Joy to the World!"

*HYMN	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	No. 119
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*RECEIVING LOVE*

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

**O Beloved One, you bring us to life in unexpected ways, and in ways we do not fully understand. Help us to pay attention to all the greening you are doing within us and around us. When we become distracted, pull us back to what is most important. Keep us aware and alert so that we do not waste chances to love or to receive love; or miss your grace in our midst. Awaken us to receive your light and to hold it steady in the darkness. When we are quick to judge ourselves or others, remind us to pause and rest in this moment of holy waiting. Bring us into alignment with your heart, so that we might tend to preparing our mangers for your birth. For we pray this in the name of that One 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 The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 9: 6-7* Wayne Alvis

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

\*CAROL *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1,4,5)* No. 123

SECOND LESSON *Isaiah 11: 1- 4a, 6-9* Linda Maddy

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

\*CAROL *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1,2,7)* No. 88

THIRD LESSON *Luke 1: 26-35, 38* Carol Cummins

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

ANTHEM "Rose of Sharon" Laurel Choir

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2: 1-7 Michael Henderson

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

\*CAROL *What Child Is This* No. 145

FIFTH LESSON *Matthew 2: 1-11* Trish Stratton

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

\*CAROL *What Star is This, with Beams So Bright* No. 152

SIXTH LESSON *John 1: 1-5* The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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

\*CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High* No. 113

### *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH *The Nicene Creed* Michael Whitby

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

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

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBER Duane Berger, Stated Clerk

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

BLESSING AND WELCOME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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; And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## *BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD*

\*HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* No. 132

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

\*POSTLUDE Don Moro

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

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

**Lay Readers:** Thank you to Michael Whitby for serving as our liturgist today, and to Carol Cummins, Wayne Alvis, Michael Henderson, Linda Maddy and Trish Stratton for serving as our scripture readers.

**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 Judy and Jim Smith to the glory of God.

**Advent Wreath Lighters:** Thank you to our "Circle" small group for serving as our Advent wreath lighters today, and to Carolyn Stinger 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.

**Gratitude to Our Choir:** Today we have the joy of hearing two choral anthems directed by Howard Lawrence.

**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.

**New Member Love:** It is a joy this Advent season to receive new members into our midst. Today we welcome, Susan Dameron by re-affirmation of faith. Susan comes to us from Mila United

Methodist Church in Heathsville, Virginia. If God is nudging you to join with us, please let our pastor know.

**God's Gift to You:** Please take a moment at the beginning and at the end of worship to receive God's gift for you. There is a birch wood heart ornament on the communion table with sharpies. Pray about the gift that God is giving to you personally this Christmas and note it on the ornament with this year's date. Let this symbol serve as an outward sign of how God is loving you in particular this year.

**Last Week of 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 be celebrating the gift of the One to Come in addition to our devotional study. Please bring something to share, and your wrapped Christmas present.

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

**Children + Christmas Eve = Love:** Please let Rev. Ann know if you will be bringing a child to worship on Christmas Eve. She is planning to do something special. Just send her an email with the age and gender of the children attending : ). Her email is [laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com](mailto:laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com)

**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 1<sup>st</sup> , with a **noon** service. Come to worship thinking about your "word" for the year. Ask God to show you.

**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

**JOY Offering this Advent:** This is our last call for the JOY Offering. Every year during the Advent season 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.

**Christmas Family Dinner Love:** Today is the last day to make a contribution. Our Virginia Randolph Christmas family is a grandmother raising her 2 teenage grandsons who is struggling to make ends meet. We are receiving food donations, financial gifts, and gift cards for this family. You

can make checks payable to the church and earmark "Christmas Family" in the memo line. Food items needed include white potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, boxed food items, and rice. We will be delivering the meal/gifts on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Items can be placed in the box in the Narthex marked VA Randolph family. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Fitch at (804) 755-7201 or Brenda MacRae. at (804) 314-6671.

**Our Advent Home Practice:** The birth of our Messiah is in sight as we round the corner to Christmas. Daily meditations are included with each week's emailed bulletin for your practice at home. Try to slow down and take time to wait with God to prepare for the birth of this One to come. Light a candle as you pray. Make the space for God to be born again in you. Ask God to show you how you can best prepare.

**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](http://LaurelPres.com) and follow the link there, or the instructions for downloading the giving app.

**Faith Community Coalition:** A meet-and-greet of this group will take place January 10, 2023, in the Public Safety Building, Room 2031, from 2 to 3 pm. We were part of this group before the pandemic, and Sue would love for us to be part of it again. The goal is a partnership between Henrico Police and our faith communities to make our communities better places. For more information, please see Sue Bell. She can be reached at (804) 266-9429.

**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.

**Interested in Joining Laurel?:** . 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) 220-1582. "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 suffering in the Ukraine/Russia 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 Scearce, 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) 220-1582 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

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



Our QR Code for online donations

Use your camera app to open this link to donate

***Isaiah 9:6-7, The Message***

<sup>2-7</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light.  
For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—  
light! sunbursts of light!  
You repopulated the nation,  
you expanded its joy.  
Oh, they're so glad in your presence!  
Festival joy!  
The joy of a great celebration,  
sharing rich gifts and warm greetings.  
The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants—  
all their whips and clubs and curses—  
Is gone, done away with, a deliverance  
as surprising and sudden as Gideon's old victory over Midian.  
The boots of all those invading troops,  
along with their shirts soaked with innocent blood,  
Will be piled in a heap and burned,  
a fire that will burn for days!  
For a child has been born—for us!