



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Christmas 1

January 1, 2023 Noon

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

Mary Campbell

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tod Balsbaugh

Leader: Hold joy!

People: Our Lord is born!

Leader: Live joy!

People: New life lives among us!

Leader: Be joy!

People: The Light is within – let us claim the love that claims us, with hope!

*HYMN

The First Nowel

No. 147

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, of new beginnings, we come to the start of this new year starstruck at the manger, wondering how we can claim the love that claims us here. We feel so unworthy of your goodness and yet you became human to show us that we are inherently good, and that we belong to you. We want to believe that you live inside of us, but we are afraid to look, afraid of being disappointed. Help us to know, even where we have not seen, that your gift is within to be savored and shared. Nudge our doubts to the sidelines so we might cohabitate with the awe of being your chosen

people. Let this new year be the start of receiving your love and radiating it by naming our particular gifts and offering them back to you. For we pray this in the name of the One who was born to free us from our smaller selves, and who is and was and always will be our Christ, Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION . . . Amen

FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Leader: Beloved Ones, hear the good news: We are created in the very image and likeness of God and because we are, we can always begin again to claim the love that claims us at the stable. Friends, believe this good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*OUR RESPONSE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING LOVE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21: 1-6a (NRSVue)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mary Campbell

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2: 1-12 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Your Gift"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

No. 141

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed 1.2

Tod Balsbaugh

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*POSTLUDE

Mary Campbell

*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.

Mary Campbell, guest organist: Today we are pleased to welcome Mary Campbell as our organist. Mary is a retired kindergarten teacher. She has earned her *Service Playing Certificate* from the American Guild of Organists and a *Church Music Certificate* from the Leadership Program for Musicians. Mary has held numerous full-time church positions and has been subbing since May.

Sanctuary Flowers: The sanctuary flowers are given today by Laurel Love to the Glory of God in gratitude to Howard Lawrence for his choral love.

Your Gift to God: As we begin 2023, think about your gift to God. Pray, reflect, meditate about it. Maybe a “word” will bubble up to the surface. Maybe a vision will float to the top. Maybe you will see how you can love more deeply. Be curious and be open. Let God show you your gift to the kingdom – and then bravely honor it.

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.

Church Office Closed on Monday: In observance of New Year’s Day, the church office will be closed on Monday January 2nd.

Interested in Serving as a Liturgist? It is that time of year when we are putting together our spring semester of liturgists. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please reach out to Rev. Ann Cherry.

Beloved Small Group Meets: Our Beloved Small Group will meet this Wednesday, January 4, at 1 pm in the Parlor. We will be talking about our new book for this next season.

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

Not too late for Pledge Cards: If you have not turned in your pledge cards yet, it is not too late. Just drop in the church house in the narthex or mail it in using our PO Box. Many thanks to those of you who have already pledged.

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.

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/or sat nearby at worship. Free COVID tests are now available through the government and or with Medicare. We encourage frequent testing with cold-like symptoms.

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

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.

January Shepherd of the Month: Our January Shepherd of the Month is Bonnie Poff. You can reach Bonnie at (804) 672-0911. 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 many shopping 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, suffering, homeless, finding it hard to feed their families or undocumented. 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) 220-1582 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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