



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Epiphany/Baptism of our Lord*

January 8, 2023 10 am

*Where Love is Known*

PRELUDE

Marianne Crean

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Sue Bell

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Marianne Crean

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Henderson

Leader: Come to the river of life.

**People: Listen for the words of love.**

Leader: Come to the waters of grace.

**People: Receive the gift of acceptance.**

Leader: Come to the river of love

**People: Where all are known and welcomed by our Beloved One.**

\*HYMN

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

No. 317

*RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of light that penetrates even our darkest nights, forgive us for preferring our own light to yours. Forgive us for turning away from the good news that was born in our own hearts. Forgive us when we, like Herod, let our own vision cloud your vision for us. Forgive us when we follow our own light instead of the star the magi dared to follow. Help us to surrender to your light that shines on inside of our own hearts through the light of that small babe, 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 claims us.

Friends, believe this good news!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*OUR RESPONSE

*Gloria Patri*

Hymn No. 581

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## *PROCLAIMING LOVE*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 42: 1-9 (NRSVue)

MUSICAL OFFERING

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3: 13-17 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*"Be Love!"*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

## *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*HYMN

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (vs. 1,4,5)*

No. 688

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The Nicene Creed 1.2*

Michael Henderson

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

*BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD*

\*HYMN                      *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*                      No. 757  
\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION                      The Rev. Ann D. Cherry  
\*POSTLUDE                      Marianne Crean  
\*RECESSION AND GREETING                      The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

---

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

**Lay Reader:** Thank you to Michael Henderson for serving as our liturgist today.

**Welcome to our Guest Organist:** Marianne Crean recently retired after 22 years as Assistant Music Director/Organist at River Road Presbyterian Church. She has also served as organist at First Baptist, Northminster Baptist, Second Baptist and Huguenot Road Baptist churches and has performed in Italy, Switzerland, and Brazil. She taught Lower School Music at St. Christopher's Schools for 29 years and holds a BM and an MM from Baylor University and the CAGO from the American Guild of Organists.

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The flowers this day are given by Mary Jane Bowlin to the glory of God and in memory of Stafford "Flash" Bowlin.

**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.

**Circle:** Join us at 10 am for our monthly Circle meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Gladys Chamberlayne is our moderator and Carol Short is our teacher.

**HCPD Meet and Greet:** A meet-and-greet between Henrico Police our Faith Communities will take place Tuesday in the HC Public Safety Building, Room 2031, from 2 to 3pm. The goal is a partnership between Henrico Police and our Faith communities to make our community a better place. We were part of this conversation prior to the pandemic. Contact Sue Bell for more information at (804) 266-9429.

**Use Your Indoor Voice – Listening to God through Creative Writing:** Join us this Wednesday, January 11, at 1:00 pm for spirituality from the inside out. A notebook will be provided, just bring a pen. In February we will begin a new book, *Hope: A User's Manual*, written by Presbyterian minister MaryAnn McKibben Dana.

**Wednesdays at Laurel:** We will kick off the New Year on Wednesday at 2:30 pm in the Parlor for a meaningful community service project. Your love is wanted and needed.

**Decorating the Sanctuary:** Join us on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9 am as we put away our Christmas Love.

**Calling all Would-Be Liturgists:** If you have a passion for serving in worship, please reach out to Reverend. Ann. She is putting together the Spring Liturgist schedule from February through May.

**Study Leave/Vacation:** Reverend Ann will be away January 9-24<sup>th</sup>. If you need pastoral care, you may reach out to Chris Rhoden at (804) 220-1582 or at [chris@kettleofish.com](mailto:chris@kettleofish.com), or to Bonnier Poff, our Shepherd of the Month, or to any one of our elders who serve on the Member Care and Missions Team, Linda Coulson, Diane Jackson or Brenda MacRae. Chris Rhoden will be filling the pulpit on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Two Finalists: Need Your Vote for Laurel's NewTag Line:** We have a run off between two awesome taglines. Take a moment to register your vision. In the Narthex you will see the same ballot box and the 2 possibilities listed on a poster board. Here are our finalists:

Enter to Worship, Leave to Serve  
Let the "Laurel Love" Light Shine on You

**Choir is Back:** Have a passion to sing? Have you been keeping your shower singing to yourself? Consider joining the choir on Thursday nights at 5:30 pm for rehearsal. Howard Lawrence is our guest choir director and our choir has come back to life. Let the fun begin!

**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.

**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.

**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 violence, for those suffering in the Ukraine/Russia war, 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

Rob McBane, Treasurer  
Peter MacRae, Bookkeeper  
Tod Balsbaugh, Elder, SP Team  
Brenda MacRae, Elder, MCM 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) 220-1582 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

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

9675 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

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



Our QR Code for online donations. Use your cell phone camera to open this link to donate.

### **Matthew 3: 16-17, *The Message***

<sup>16-17</sup> The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life.