



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Epiphany 4

January 29, 2023 10 a.m.

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

Jacob Saunders-Devol

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

Pete MacRae

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pete MacRae

Leader: Beloved, what does the Lord require?

People: To do justice.

Leader: Children of God, what does the Lord require?

People: To love kindness.

Leader: Loving Ones, what does the Lord require?

People: To walk humbly alongside our God.

*HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

No. 829

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

People: Forgive our spiritual smugness.

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

People: Forgive our desire to hide our pain.

Leader: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

People: Forgive our misplaced anger.

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they shall be satisfied.

People: Forgive us for filling our yearning for you with something else.

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

People: Forgive our half-baked walk with you.

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

People: Forgive us for seeing war as an option to peace.

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

People: Forgive us for not taking a stand.

Leader: Blessed are those who respond to God's blessings by being love in this world.

People: For they will see God everywhere.

All: For all of these things, we pray this in the name of Jesus, who is and was and always will be, our Christ.

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 and again to claim the love that 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

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

SCRIPTURE

Micah 6: 1-8 (The Message)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jacob Saunders-Devol

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5: 1-12 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"In light of that . . ."

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

Blest Are They (vs. 1,4,5)

No. 172

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith 10.4

Pete MacRae

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*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; 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	<i>I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me</i>	No. 700
*CHARGE AND BLESSING		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*POSTLUDE		Jacob Saunders-Devol
*RECESSION AND GREETING		

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

Lay Reader: Thank you to Pete MacRae for serving as our liturgist today.

Welcome back to Jacob Saunders-Devol, Guest Pianist: Jacob Saunders-Devol currently serves as the Choral Director at Mills Godwin High School in Henrico. He is a graduate of Hermitage High School and Virginia Commonwealth University and is happy to serve the community he grew up in. He lives in Byrd Park with his husband, Catesby, and their one-year-old daughter, Jane.

Sanctuary Flowers: The flowers are given this day to the glory of God by Laurel Love, in memory of Claudia Hicks.

Passing of the Peace: You are invited to stand and greet each other in the name of our Beloved One to greet each other with 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.

Celebration of Life for Claudia Hicks: Please join us tomorrow (online or in person) to celebrate the life of Claudia Hicks. Her burial is at Signal Hill Memorial Park at 11 am and her memorial service is at 2 p.m. at Laurel, with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Visitation is tonight from 2-4 and 6-8 at Bennett's Funeral Home at 11020 West Broad Street, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

Contact Information for Claudia's family: Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Tinsley, P.O. Box 327, Rockville, Virginia 23146 and Mr. Jimmy Hicks and Mr. Jim Smith-Parham, 1617 Claremont Ave, Richmond, Virginia 23227

Vision Task Force: Our VTF will meet today right after worship. If you are a visionary, or a prophet, think seriously about adding your voice to this team's work. You can also see Ann Whitby for more information. We will meet in the Parlor.

Uncorked: Join us this Tuesday evening at 5:30 pm in the Parlor to mull over contemporary issues from a faith lens. Brenda MacRae will provide the hors d'oeuvres.

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

Choir Rehearsals: Join us at 5:30 on Thursday for rehearsal. Howard Lawrence is our guest choir director, and our choir has come back to life. Join the fun.

Called Congregational Meeting February 12: The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of hearing and acting on the report of the Nominating Committee, after worship on Sunday February 12th. The Nominating Committee is putting forward the following slate of officers to serve a two-year post as an elder:

Wayne Alvis, Duane Berger, Margaret Fitch, Linda Maddy, and Ann Whitby

If you have another name to put before the body, please check with the person before submitting his or her name to Duane Berger, our Stated Clerk.

Gratitude to our Nominating Committee: A big shout-out to Michael Henderson, chair; Gladys Chamberlyane, Judy Smith, and Rudy van't Reit for discerning our next slate of Laurel officers.

Back by popular demand, Laurel's Chili Cook Off! Please join us after worship service on Sunday February 19 at 11:00 am. Sign up in the narthex to enter the competition with your award-winning chili. For those not interested in making chili, sign up to bring a salad, cornbread/bread, or dessert. Have your taste buds ready to go, and let's see who will be crowned Chili King or Queen in 2023! Any type of chili will be accepted: vegetarian, white chili, red chili, spicy chili, sweet chili, beans, or no beans. All are welcome!! Winner takes all!!!

Two Finalists: Need Your Vote for Laurel's New Tag 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

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 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.

Dickerson Phone Number Updated: Please update your directories for Claude and Carrie Dickerson. (804) 746-5342.

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.

Winter Weather: Should we experience winter conditions, we will most likely close out of an abundance of caution. Every attempt will be made to post this notification online, to send out a group email and to activate our phone tree.

January/February Shepherds of the Month: Our January Shepherd of the Month is Bonnie Poff. You can reach Bonnie at (804) 672-0911. Our February Shepherds of the Month are Gladys and Marshall Chamberlyane. Our shepherds provide member care and TLC.

Call to Prayer: Let us be in prayer for all those impacted by the recent gun violence, 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 Laurel to embody the bold vision God has set for us, for all of us to claim our gifts in God, and for all of us who are struggling to claim the love that claims us as beloved ones, and in light of that, 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 Scearce, 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

laurelpres.com

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

9675 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

Micah 6: 1-8, *The Message*

6¹⁻² Listen now, listen to GOD:

“Take your stand in court.

If you have a complaint, tell the mountains;
make your case to the hills.

And now, Mountains, hear GOD’s case;
listen, Jury Earth—

For I am bringing charges against my people.
I am building a case against Israel.

3-5 “Dear people, how have I done you wrong?

Have I burdened you, worn you out? Answer!

I delivered you from a bad life in Egypt;

I paid a good price to get you out of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you—

and Aaron and Miriam to boot!

Remember what Balak king of Moab tried to pull,
and how Balaam son of Beor turned the tables on him.

Remember all those stories about Shittim and Gilgal.

Keep all GOD’s salvation stories fresh and present.”

6-7 How can I stand up before GOD

and show proper respect to the high God?

Should I bring an armload of offerings

topped off with yearling calves?

Would GOD be impressed with thousands of rams,

with buckets and barrels of olive oil?
Would he be moved if I sacrificed my firstborn child,
my precious baby, to cancel my sin?

⁸ But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do,
what GOD is looking for in men and women.
It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,
be compassionate and loyal in your love,
And don't take yourself too seriously—
take God seriously.

Matthew 5: 1-12, *The Message*

⁵ ¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

³ "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

⁴ "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

⁵ "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

⁶ "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

⁷ "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

⁸ "You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

⁹ "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

¹⁰ "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

¹¹⁻¹² "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.