



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Epiphany 5

February 5, 2023 10 am

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

Steve Henley

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Tod Balsbaugh

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have been called the salt of the earth.

People: To infuse the world with love.

Leader: We have been called the light of the world.

People: To shine in dark and forgotten places. To light the shadows of suffering.

Leader: Just like Jesus who came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it;

People: Let us be salt and light so that others might experience life as a “love-saturated” world.

*HYMN

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak (vs. 1,4,5)

No. 722

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Salt and Light, your presence infuses our kingdom living with joy and meaning. You show us in Jesus how and what to love. Yet, we confess that this often feels too much. So, we hide our light under a bushel, and we keep our saltiness to ourselves.

Yet, you ask us to be salt, to be light, as instruments of your deeper grace and kindness for all people. When we fail to love you first, forgive us. When we fail to participate in healing this world, forgive us. When we fail to see that we have a role in your kingdom construction, forgive us. Give us hearts that are supple and wills that are bold so we can be your salt and be your light, reflections of your love for us and this your cosmos, for 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

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 2: 1-13 (The Message)

MUSICAL OFFERING

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5: 13-17 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Be Salt, Be Light"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

Here in This Place

No. 401

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith

Carol Cummins

**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

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: Creator God, 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 God, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: We praise you, Prince of Peace . . . All praise to you, Lord Jesus.

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

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN	<i>Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (vs. 1,2,5)</i>	No. 314
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*POSTLUDE		Steve Henley
*RECESSION AND GREETING		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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

Lay Reader: Thank you to Carol Cummins for serving as our liturgist today.

Welcome to Steve Henley, our Guest Organist: Steve Henley served Bon Air Presbyterian Church for 20 years and retired from there January 2022. He directed an active music program at Bon Air, directing children, youth, adult choirs, handbell choirs and an active concert series.

Sanctuary Flowers: The flowers are given this day by Laurel Love to the glory of God in honor of Carolyn Stinger and LaVerne Miller for their bulletin love.

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.

First Sundays: Our three teams will meet right after worship today. The Worship and Education Team will meet in the choir loft, the Member Care and Missions Team will meet in the Parlor, and the Stewardship and Property Team will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider adding your voice to the mix. All are welcomed and all are needed.

Beloved Starts New Book: Join us this Wednesday, February 8, at 1:00 pm as we begin a new book, *Hope: A User's Manual*, written by Presbyterian minister MaryAnn McKibben Dana. The cost of the book is \$18. Books will be available for purchase at that time.

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.

Valentine's Day Love: We will be gathering at Nick's Romaine Terrace for a Valentines Lunch on Tuesday February 14th at noon. If you would like to join us, please email Rev. Ann by Tuesday. She will be making our reservation.

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!!!

Lent is Just Around the Corner: In two weeks to be exact. We will be practicing together how to lead with the heart of God as we pilgrimage with our Suffering Servant for the 40-day journey into the wilderness. A guided prayer chart will be provided as a way to show love to yourself and to our world. We hope to offer a weekly contemplative service on Wednesday's at 12:15 pm. Holy Week will include a Maundy Thursday service, a Good Friday experience, and we hope a Saturday prayer vigil. Weekly Lenten devotions will be included in our bulletins to deepen our walk with Jesus as he surrenders to Love.

Shove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Join us on Tuesday, February 21st, at 6 pm for a pancake supper in the Fellowship Hall. You might think of this day as our last hurrah before we enter the wilderness with our Suffering Servant. In the past, our ancestors would clean out the pantry to use up all the left-over celebratory foods from Christmas. Some traditions mark this day with foods like pancakes, some with Madri Gras celebrations. However we mark it, let us ask God to show us how to walk with Jesus on festive days and on hard days, and the wisdom to know the difference. Come join us as we prepare to kick off our descent with Jesus by enjoying this festive meal together. Please use the amber insert to give us a headcount so we can plan ahead.

Ash Wednesday at 12:15 pm followed by Soup: Join us on Wednesday, February 22, at 12:15 pm, as we gather as a beloved community to mark the beginning of Lent with the imposition of ashes. Our ashes are created from old palms from past Palm Sundays, with a special thank you to the Bergers for curating them. Our service will be followed by soup and bread in the Fellowship Hall.

Our 2023 Pledge: It has come to our attention that some of our pledges were not received. We are trying to reach out to those in that boat. If you have not yet pledged, please take a blue card in the narthex and place it in the small church house by the front of the church. If you want to double check that we have your pledge, please reach out to Tod Balsbaugh at todbalsbaugh@gmail.com or (804) 869-3505. Our goal is to have 100% participation. It is not the amount of money that you are pledging that matters – it is the fact that you are investing in God’s work in and through Laurel. For non-pledgers who do give, we appreciate you, and ask you to consider noting this differently by documenting what you anticipate giving on a pledge card. That way we can count your gift as participation as well as in our financial planning for church programs.

Gratitude for Claudia Hicks Service: Thank you to Emily Berger Godon for serving as a sololist, to Linda Coulson, Diane Jackson, and Brenda MacRae for supporting the caterer, to Gladys and Marshall Chamberlayne for serving as our greeters, Steve Scarce for streaming the service, Laverne Miller and Carolyn Stinger for running the bulletin, and to the choir for leading our hymns. A warm thank you to all of you who attended in person or online. This was love in action.

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

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.

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: Even though our snow sightings have been fleeting, 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.

February Shepherds of the Month: 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 misuse of power, 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

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laurelpres.com



Our QR Code for online donations

Use your camera app to open this link to donate

Matthew 5: 13-17, *The Message*

Salt and Light

¹³ “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Completing God’s Law

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ “Don’t suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God’s Law or the Prophets. I’m not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God’s Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God’s Law will be alive and working.