



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Lent 1*

February 26, 2023 10 am

*Where Love is Known*

PRELUDE	<i>Reflection (Franklin Ashdown)</i>	Steve Henley
RINGING OF THE HOUR		Janice Berger
WELCOME BELOVED ONES		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Gladys Chamberlayne

Leader: Come, off the mountaintop, to enter the wilderness . . .

**People: and walk alongside our Suffering Servant.**

Leader: Come, for we know who he is . . .

**People: and we know who we are.**

Leader: Come, and behold our Suffering Servant's "It" factor.

**People: We come to behold his, and to add ours.**

\*HYMN *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice* No. 163

*RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Beloved One, give us the tenacity to stay close to our Suffering Servant, even when every fiber of our being wants to flee. Help us to "listen to him" so we might "follow him" even to these scary places in the wilderness. Help us to take in how Jesus uses his "It" factor to stave off temptations. And remind us that even with wobbly knees,**

**our “it” factor is enough to stay rooted in you. Help us to trust that even when we fall short, you use even our missteps as a compass to living more deeply inside of our relationship to you. Guide us each day to live more fully from your heart space found in our true selves, for we pray this through our Suffering Servant, 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 formed from Love to be love and because we are, we can always begin again and again to claim the love that claims us in Christ. 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

Psalm 32 (The Message)

MUSICAL OFFERING

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4: 1-11 (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*“Jesus’ “It” Factor”*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

## *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*HYMN

*When Peace Like a River (vs. 1,2,4)*

No. 840

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Philippians 2: 5-11*

Gladys Chamberlayne

**We profess that Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of**

a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

\* 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                      *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*                      No. 757

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

\*POSTLUDE                      *Allegro (Johann Kittel)*                      Steve Henley

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

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

**Lay Reader:** Thank you to Gladys Chamberlayne for serving as our liturgist today.

**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 Mary Jane Bowlin, for all of her behind the scenes love that connects us, and her monthly bulletin boards that speak 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.

**Congratulations to our New Elders:** We had the honor and privilege of installing our new elders last Sunday. Let us hold each of them in love before God. It is through their discernment of God's dreams for us that we will be led forward. Congratulations to Wayne Alvis, Duane Berger, Margaret Fitch, Linda Maddy, and Ann Whitby

**The Lenten Practice:** Let us continue to prepare our hearts to walk in this important space as we practice together how to "listen to him" in order that we might "follow." Learning how to lead with the heart of God is a practice. This 40-day pilgrimage with our Suffering Servant is an ideal time to reflect on the "It" factor of Jesus, and on our own. It is also a perfect time to give of ourselves for the benefit of another, as well as to ask God to show you what is good for you – and then to pray for the courage to trust it.

We have many elements to help you deepen your walk this Lent:

A guided examen, *Leading with the Heart of God*, as a way to identify God's presence and our "it" factor.

Daily Lenten devotions to deepen our walk with Jesus as he surrenders to Love.

A weekly contemplative service on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm.

A meaningful Holy Week with a Maundy Thursday service, a Good Friday experience, and a Saturday prayer vigil as we wait in the uncertainty of the tomb.

**Vision Task Force Today:** Our Vision Task Force will meet today right after worship in the Parlor. If you are curious and have a hankering for discovering what and who God is calling Laurel to be, please join us. Ann Whitby is the chair.

**Uncorked on Tuesday Night:** Join us on Tuesday night for conversation and hors-d'oeuvres provided by Judy Smith, as we unpack the events of the world from a faith perspective.

**Contemplation Service Wednesday:** Join us at **12:30 pm** for the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*, where we will listen together for the word of God. This is a 30-minute service. However, you are invited to stay as long as you like.

We moved the service to 12:30 pm to allow time for Gingerbread Preschool to exit our parking lot. Please exercise caution entering and parking because there could be small children dashing in and out.

**Beloved Meets Wednesday at 1 pm:** Join us in the Parlor as we continue digging into a new book, *Hope: A User's Manual*, written by Presbyterian minister MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Since we are listening to the bite-sized pieces of this book before discussing it, any time is a good time to join the conversation.

**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.

**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. You can also give using our QR code on the back of the bulletin by opening your camera and focusing on the code.

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.

**Earthquake Relief:** If you would like to give to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) fund for those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, you can do so by calling (800) 872-328, going online to <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR999999/> or sending your gifts to

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

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

**Beach Cottage Counseling:** Even though Chris Rhoden is not a member of the staff of Laurel Presbyterian Church, you are invited to reach out to him. His office is located in our Parlor. We have scholarship money from a Presbytery small church grant to cover the cost. You can reach Chris 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.

**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 Norfolk Southern train derailment in Ohio that led to a chemical spillage, for gun violence, for those suffering and impacted by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, from the misuse of power, by the Ukraine/Russia war, for

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  
Peter MacRae, Bookkeeper  
Duane Berger, Clerk, Elder, WE  
Michael Henderson, Documentarian  
Margaret Fitch, Elder, MCM Team  
Brenda MacRae, Elder, MCM Team

Rob McBane, Treasurer  
Linda Maddy, Elder  
Tod Balsbaugh, Elder, SP Team  
Ann Whitby, Elder, Vision Task Force  
Denis Ramdas, Elder, SP Team  
Wayne Alvis, 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)



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