



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Transfiguration Sunday

February 19, 2023 10 am

Where Love is Known

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| PRELUDE | <i>Organ Trio (Josef Rheinberger)</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 Michael Henderson

Leader: Come, climb up the mountain of God with Peter, James and John.

People: God's glory shines through the clouds.

Leader: Come, climb up the mountain of God with Jesus.

People: Christ's glory shines through the darkness.

Leader: Climb up the mountain of God with each other.

People: The Spirit's glory shines through our lives.

Leader: Come, climb up the mountain of God!

People: We have come "to listen to him!"

*HYMN *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* No. 12

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dazzling God, sometimes we are so blinded by your light that we miss your love in our presence. You ask us to see our neighbor as you see us. Yet sometimes we are so turned inward, that we miss noticing your glow in those around us. You ask us to see

ourselves as you see us. Yet sometimes we are so focused on what has gone wrong that we miss out on all the ways you are sustaining us still. We thank you for seeing us clearly and for showing us who we really are through Jesus. Help us to "listen to him" and to trust your eyes that we too are part of your beloved gaze, for we pray this in Jesus name, 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 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

Exodus 24: 12-18 (NRSVue)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Soon and Very Soon

The Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 17: 1-9 (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Peak Experiences"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

No. 753

A SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry, and is responsible for the integrity of his witness in his own particular situation. He or she is entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community and subject to its advice and correction. He or she in turn, in their own competence, helps to guide the church.

In recognition of special gifts of the Spirit and for the ordering of its life as a community, the church calls, trains, and authorizes certain members for leadership and oversight. The persons qualified for these duties in accordance with the polity of the church are set apart by ordination or other appropriate acts and thus made responsible for their special ministries.

* OUR RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn No. 606

A LITANY OF COMMISSIONING

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

Leader: There are different gifts.

People: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Leader: There are different ways of serving our Forever God

People: But it is the same Lord who is served.

Leader: Love works through different people in different ways.

People: Yet, it is the same God who brings Love forth through us all.

Leader: Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit to advance love;

People: And to use it for our common good.

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ,

People: And individually members of this beloved community.

Leader: Though we have different gifts, we all are made in the image and likeness of God and have been given the ministry of love. Within our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular functions, such as ministers and elders. As a church family, we recognize these special gifts, remembering that our Lord Jesus said, "Whoever among you desire to be great must become the servant of all."

People: Just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life to set others free, so we too are called to serve in Christ's name, in order to be God's love in this world.

QUESTIONS OF OFFICERS-ELECT AND CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

PRONOUNCEMENT OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

WELCOME

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| *HYMN | <i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i> | No. 65 |
| *CHARGE AND BENEDICTION | | The Rev. Ann D. Cherry |
| *POSTLUDE | <i>Toccata in E Minor (Johann Pachelbel)</i> | 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 Michael Henderson 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 Brenda and Pete MacRae to the glory of God in loving memory of Brenda's father, John Ruser.

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: Today we have the honor and privilege of installing our new elders to serve a two-year term. Let us hold each of these officers 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

Gratitude to our Elders Rotating Off of Session: We would like to thank and recognize our outgoing elders for their faithful service to Laurel: Linda Coulson, Diane Jackson, Michael Henderson, and Steve Scarce. It is because of their love that our church sustains its capacity to faithfully follow God's dreams for us, which are always bigger than our own.

It's Here - Our Chili Cook-Off - Right After Church: Please join us after worship today for award-winning chili. Let's see who will be crowned Chili King or Queen in 2023! All are welcome!! Winner takes all plus bragging rights and we get to enjoy good food!!

Lent Starts Wednesday: Let us prepare our hearts to walk in this important space as we practice together how to lead with the heart of God. We start our 40-day pilgrimage with our Suffering Servant on Ash Wednesday. We have many elements to help you deepen your walk and relationship with God.

A guided prayer chart as a way to show love to yourself and to our world.

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

A weekly contemplative service on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm.

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.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper -- This Week: Join us on Tuesday, at 6 pm, for a pancake supper in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us as we prepare to kick off our descent with Jesus into the wilderness by enjoying this festive meal together. Please use the yellow insert and place it in the church small box in the narthex so we can plan ahead.

Think of Shrove Tuesday 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 Mardi 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.

Ash Wednesday Service at 12:15 pm followed by Soup: Join us this Wednesday, 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.

Hybrid Imposition of Ashes: We invite you to wear a mask for the imposition of the ashes which will be applied by the pastor, who will also be masked. You may also pick up ashes at the door and apply them yourself during the service. Ann will also move around the sanctuary to impose the ashes for those who wish to remain seated.

Beloved Starts New Book: Join us on Wednesday, at 1:00 pm in the Parlor as we continue digging into 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.

Hannah Miller Recorded as a Candidate for Ministry: Yesterday at our Presbytery meeting, we had the privilege of honoring God's call in Hannah's life to prepare to serve as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. As you would fully expect, Hannah sustained the examination period with grace and love.

Thank you to Ann Whitby who attended the Presbytery of the James meeting as our representative.

Our 2023 Pledge: It has come to our attention that some of our pledges were not received. If you want to double check that we have your pledge, please reach out to Tod Balsbaugh at TBalsbaugh@jacksonfeild.org or (804) 869-3505. **Our goal is to have your participation.** It is not the amount of money that is pledged that matters as much as our investment 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 this year. 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

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 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.

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.

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—most recently at Michigan State—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
Chris Rhoden, Kettle o’Fish Counselor-in-Residence
Duane Berger, Clerk, Elder, WE
Michael Henderson, Documentarian
Margaret Fitch, Elder, MCM Team
Brenda MacRae, Elder, MCM Team
Linda Maddy, Elder

Rob McBane, Treasurer
Peter MacRae, Bookkeeper
Tod Balsbaugh, Elder, SP Team
Ann Whitby, Elder, Vision Task Force
Denis Ramdas, Elder, SP Team
Wayne Alvis, Elder

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



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Use your camera app to open this link to donate

Exodus 24:12-18, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 17: 1-9, New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

¹⁷ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I^[a] will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved;^[b] with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”