



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Lent 2

March 5, 2023 10 am

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE	<i>Communion (Richard Purvis)</i>	Steve Henley
RINGING OF THE HOUR		Janice Berger
WELCOME BELOVED ONES		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
MINUTE FOR MISSION		Michael Henderson

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP Carol Cummins

Leader: We lift up my eyes to the hills—from where does our help come?

People: Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth

Leader: The Lord is our keeper; the Lord is our shade at our right hand.

People: The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in

from this time on and forevermore (adapted from Psalm 121).

*HYMN *Let All Things Now Living* No. 37

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Beloved, it is so hard for us to let go and let you really guide us. Like Nicodemus before us, we want to understand how we might be born again but struggle against literal and spiritual truths. We really just want clear instructions to follow. In our language. In our own way. We want to be born again but without the pain and the suffering that comes with leaving old habits behind and making room for new ones to be born.

Forgive our reluctance to allow you to take reign of every detail of our lives. Forgive our doubts that we can be born again at our age. Forgive our disbelief that you could be asking us to live by your Spirit, even as your church. Give us hope that we too can return to you to be born again, for all these things we pray in Jesus' name, 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 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

Genesis 12: 1-4a (NRSVue)

MUSICAL OFFERING

SCRIPTURE

John 3: 1-7 (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Heart Truths"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

No. 817

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

Philippians 2: 5-11

Carol Cummins

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

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: Beloved One, 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 Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: We praise you, Beloved God . . . 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>Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!</i>	No. 839
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*POSTLUDE	<i>Voluntary (John Stanley)</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 Carol Cummins for serving as our liturgist today.

Steve Henley, 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 Beverly and Bill Shepherd to the glory of God in memory of Betty and Ray Wheeler.

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

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.

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. All are welcomed.

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 20-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 *Hope: A User's Manual*, written by Presbyterian minister MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Since we are listening to bite-sized pieces of this book before discussing it, any time is a good time to join the conversation.

Wednesdays at Laurel: We will meet this Wednesday at 2:30 pm in the Parlor for a meaningful community service project. Your love is wanted and needed.

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.

Time Change Ahead: Next Saturday we spring forward to daylight saving time and lose an hour of time. **Our worship time will remain at 10 am this year.** We encourage you to plan ahead because your body will think it is 9 am even though the clock says 10 am. Be gentle with yourself.

St. Patrick's Day Early Celebration, a Week Out: Join us for lunch next Tuesday, March 14th, at O'Toole's Restaurant and Pub, at high noon, "to get our Irish on." O'Toole's is located at 4800 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, VA 23225.

Laurel Love takes to the Court, March Madness is Ahead: Submit your brackets by tipoff on Thursday March 16th for bragging rights and a COSTCO size Peanut M & M's. We will have two winners with our second chance bracket submissions. Submit as many brackets as the spirit leads you. We are using the ESPN app and our name is Laurel Love – 2023.

Rev. Ann Attends Focused Presbytery Retreat: Ann attended a POJ retreat this week, to help Laurel claim the vision that God has for our 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.

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.

March Shepherds of the Month: Our March Shepherd of the Month is Gladys 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
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You can contact Rev. Ann Cherry at (804) 508-3850 or at laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com

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Where Love Is Known

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Our QR Code for online donations

Use your camera app to open this link to donate

Genesis 12: 1-4a, NRSVue

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”^[a]

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

John 3:1-7, NRSVue

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”^[b] ⁴

Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You^[c] must be born from above.’^[d]