



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Lent 3

March 12, 2023 10 am

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE	<i>Pastorale (Eric Thiman)</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: From the “wilderness of Sin” we have congregated . . .

People: To follow our Suffering Servant.

Leader: From the “broken places” in our lives, we have gathered . . .

People: To listen to our Suffering Servant.

Leader: From darkness, we have come . . .

People: To stand with our Suffering Servant, the Light of the world.

*HYMN *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* No. 81

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Beloved One, there are a million little ways that we put you to “the test” each day. We want proof before we suffer that our suffering will not be in vain. We want proof that you will see us through this wilderness time. We want proof that we will emerge unscathed. We want proof before we pick up our cross and follow you that it will all

end well. Forgive our need to have proof before we “listen and follow.” Forgive our knee jerk reaction to back away from pain, from letting go, and the necessary path of descent. We know that transformation is through the cross, but all we see when we look at the cross, is “death and dying” and we just want Jesus to take care of that for us. Forgive our wobbly knees, and give us the strength, to stay strong with Him as he shows us how to remain inside of our “it” factor, and grounded in your Love, 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

Exodus 17: 1-7 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

Come As You Are

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

John 4: 1-4, 7-15, 31-38 (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Testing, 1,2,3”

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

No. 707 (vs. 1,2,4)

*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

Come, Labor On

No. 719 (*vs. 1 & 4*)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*POSTLUDE

Sinfonia (Dietrich Buxtehude)

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 Linda Maddy 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 Gladys and Marshall Chamberlayne to the glory of God in memory of their daughter, Susan.

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.

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.

Session Meets Today: Our Session will gather in the Parlor at 11:15 a.m. for our monthly stated meeting. Duane Berger is our Clerk and Michael Henderson is our Documentarian.

Circle Meeting: Our women of the church will gather for bible study around “Sabbath” on Tuesday at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. Carol Short is our teacher, Gladys Chamberlayne is our moderator, Judy Smith is our treasurer and Carolyn Stinger is our secretary.

Come Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day Early on Tuesday: Join us for lunch on Tuesday, March 14th, at noon, at O’Toole’s, an authentic Irish Restaurant and Pub. O’Toole’s is located at 4800 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, VA 23225. Please let me know if you think you will be attending so I can give the restaurant a heads-up. Some of us will be carpooling from the church, leaving around 11:30, please meet us there if you would like to ride share.

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. 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.

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.

March Madness Starts Thursday: Submit your brackets by tipoff on Thursday 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**. *(If you see another Laurel Love asking for a password, ignore it, ours is not password protected and is open to the public.)* Judy Smith and Sharon Riley were our winners last year. Let's give them a run for their peanuts!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!! The Richmond Flying Squirrels is sponsoring a Faith Night on May 6, 2023. The Game starts at 6:05pm. Member Care and Mission will be purchasing tickets to sell to those interested in going. Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to purchase a ticket from MCM. Tickets will be \$10 per person and will include fireworks after the game plus a faith-based band before game (doors open at 5:00pm). Come on out for some fun and fellowship! We need at least 20 people to sign up to get the \$10 rate. Please sign up by April 2 so we can order the tickets. The seats will be in the Terrace level with handrails.

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
Michael Henderson, Documentarian
Margaret Fitch, Elder, MCM Team
Brenda MacRae, Elder, MCM Team

Rob McBane, Treasurer
Linda Maddy, Elder, MCM Team
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

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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