



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Lent 5*

March 26, 2023 10 am

*Where Love is Known*

PRELUDE	<i>O Blessed Jesu (Johannes Brahms)</i>	Steve Henley
RINGING OF THE HOUR		Janice Berger
WELCOME BELOVED ONES		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
MINUTE FOR MISSION		Gladys Chamberlayne

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gladys Chamberlayne

Leader: We wait for the Lord, our souls waits . . .

**People: and in God's word we hope.**

Leader: My soul waits for the Lord . . .

**People: more than those who watch for the morning**

Leader: O People of God, hope in the Lord!

**People: For with the Lord there is steadfast love, forgiveness of sin,  
and release from our captivity** (Adapted from Ps. 130).

\*HYMN

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

No. 286

*RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Beloved One, we want to believe that you unbind us from our dead places, and even raise us from the dead, right along with Lazarus, but help our unbelief! We are our**

own worst enemies—doubts creep in and we feel paralyzed by our internal lifelessness. We see ourselves aging and wonder if you can bring us to life again. We so want life in you. Help us to give up all the ways we hold onto the dead places as if our lives depended upon it. We know that we are changed by living inside of your heart, but forgive us when we confuse “life in you” and “belief in our own abilities.” Forgive us when we allow our doubts to cloud our seeing as if wearing sunglasses inside. Solidly do for us what only you can do, and give us a willing and able Spirit to follow Jesus through this place of uncertainty. 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

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

John 11: 1-53 Selected Verses (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*“Faith Seeking Understanding”*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

## RESPONDING IN LOVE

\*HYMN

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

No. 250

\*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

*Somebody's Knocking at Your Door*

No. 728

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

\*POSTLUDE

*Lenten Choral (J. S. Bach)*

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 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 Elizabeth Ann Stevenson to the glory of God in memory of her mother, Agnes Henley Stevenson.

**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.

**Our Vision Task Force Meets Today:** Join us in the Parlor at 11:15 pm.

**Uncorked this Tuesday at 5:30 pm:** Join us for cool and refreshing drinks and lively conversation as we talk over world events from a faith lens. We meet in the Parlor at 5:30 pm.

**Contemplative Service at 12:30 on 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 Bracket Updates:** Chris Rhoden is in the lead, followed by Sharon Riley and Judy Smith in a regular tournament bracket. The Second Chance brackets have been posted and we will report on our standings next week.

**Cleaning Supplies for Safe Harbor:** The Safe Harbor Shelter in Richmond provides support that survivors of sexual and domestic violence and human trafficking need to overcome their crisis and to transform their lives. All services are free to survivors and are offered in both English and Spanish. The member care committee has chosen to donate cleaning items from the shelters' needs list and here are their top 5 cleaning items they need: **liquid laundry detergent, dish soap, dishwashing detergent, Lysol/Clorox wipes and paper towels.** You only need to pick 1 or 2 items to donate. We have a box in the Narthex for the donations and we will be collecting through Easter Sunday, April 9. The items are printed on the box so you will know what to bring in. Please consider donating with us to this worthwhile group. Thank you.

**Coal Pit Learning Center:** Margaret Fitch of the Member Care and Missions Team has organized a program for reading to Coal Pit Learning center children. Anyone can sign up to read to the kids. Any Tuesday or Thursday at 9:30 to 10:00am or 3:30-4:00pm. The children are four and five years old and Maria, the Director, suggested two stories or a craft. We would love to have men go too— just let Margaret know if you want to volunteer. You can reach Margaret at (804) 402-5737.

**Take Me Out to the Ball Game!** 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 the 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.

**Bulletin Preparer Needed:** Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, we need a new volunteer to gather information and put together our weekly worship bulletin. If you have administrative gifts and enjoy organizing data and tracking lists, please see Ann Cherry.

**Easter Hydrangeas Orders:** Starting today through Palm Sunday we will be receiving your orders for Hydrangeas to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The cost this year is \$23. You can use the attachment in the bulletin to drop in the small church box in the narthex along with your payment or you can mail in the form using our PO Box address. Please designate whether the plant is in honor or memory of someone special on the form.

**Holy Week Details:** A fuller line-up of Holy Week functions will appear here next week.

Palm Sunday Worship: 10:00 on April 2

Wednesday Lectio Divina Contemplative Service: 12:30 on April 5

Maundy Thursday Communion Service: 12:30 pm on April 6

Good Friday Interactive Prayer Experience: Noon-3pm on April 7 (you can come at any time and stay as long as you like; a packet will be provided for this reflection space)

**Easter Celebrations:** Two services on Easter Sunday this year. Come join us for a 7 a.m. sunrise service in our parking lot. Sue Bell will be our worship leader and preacher. And then join us at 10 a.m. as the celebration continues of the resurrection of our Lord.

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** One Great Hour of Sharing has roots dating back to 1946 as an ecumenical effort to support war victims in Europe. Today, Christians from around the globe share their financial resources for world relief. We can join the effort by using the “fish” shaped banks that are by the front and side doors or by sending in a check made out to Laurel but earmarked for OGHS. We are receiving this offering through Easter Sunday.

**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.

**Another Intern Coming this Summer!** The Session has voted to welcome David McDowell to our church this summer. He is a second-year student at Union Theological Seminary. He is a friend of Hannah Miller, who was our seminary intern last summer. Look for more information in May.

**Team Needed to Support Seminary Intern:** We are organizing a team that will rally around and support David’s experience this summer from early June through early August. We are looking for those of you who are natural nurturers, who can provide honest feedback in a kind way, and who enjoy growing talent. If this interests you, please reach out to Ann.

**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.

**March/April Shepherds of the Month:** Our March Shepherd of the Month is Gladys Chamberlayne. You can reach her at (804) 755-6172. Our April Shepherd of the Month is Nana Sarfo-Kantanka. You can reach Nana at (804) 922-3557. Our shepherds provide member care and TLC.

**Call to Prayer:** Let us be in prayer for all those impacted by the winter weather and floods in California, let us be in prayer for the stability of the banking market, for the recent Norfolk Southern train derailment in Ohio and Alabama, 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](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**

P.O. Box 1280, Glen Allen, VA 23060-1280

9675 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

laurelpres.com



Our QR Code for online donations

Use your camera app to open this link to donate

Ezekiel 37: 1-14, *The New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition*

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath<sup>[a]</sup> to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath<sup>[b]</sup> in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:<sup>[c]</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,<sup>[d]</sup> and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

John 11: 48-53, *The Message*

<sup>45-48</sup> That was a turning point for many of the Jews who were with Mary. They saw what Jesus did, and believed in him. But some went back to the Pharisees and told on Jesus. The high priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Jewish ruling body. “What do we do now?” they asked. “This man keeps on doing things, creating God-signs. If we let him go on, pretty soon everyone will be believing in him and the Romans will come and remove what little power and privilege we still have.”

<sup>49-52</sup> Then one of them—it was Caiaphas, the designated Chief Priest that year—spoke up, “Don’t you know anything? Can’t you see that it’s to our advantage that one man dies for the people rather than the whole nation be destroyed?” He didn’t say this of his own accord, but as Chief Priest that year he unwittingly prophesied that Jesus was about to die sacrificially for the nation, and not only for the nation but so that all God’s exile-scattered children might be gathered together into one people.

<sup>53-54</sup> From that day on, they plotted to kill him. So Jesus no longer went out in public among the Jews. He withdrew into the country bordering the desert to a town called Ephraim and secluded himself there with his disciples.