



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Easter 3

April 23, 2023 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE *Organ Hymn (Raymond Haan)* 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: Easter People, come to our Forever God with thanksgiving!

People: We come eager to live as your Easter people!

Leader: Easter People, come, and learn how to live differently!

People: We come to be changed by this good news!

*HYMN *We Know That Christ Is Raised* No. 485

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of human start-ups and of new beginnings, we come eager to live as your Easter People. We long for our lives to be changed by the good news that you changed everything by defying physical death and overcoming evil. We hunger to claim this tipping point in time, yet we are a jittery people. We want to “see” proof, like Thomas, before we really embrace this good news. We want to live differently, but only if we know for sure that “all will be well.” We long to mirror each other’s “it” factor formed from your matter, but we shy away from “seeing” you in everyone and everything –

even ourselves. Give us the courage to walk bravely into the future you have created for us. Give us the confidence that we can trust your goodness enough to reboot us as new creations in Christ, even as we linger with doubt, for we pray all these things, in the name of that one you stood up from the grave, who is and was and always will be our Risen 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

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2: 14a, 22b-24, 29-32 (NRSVue)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Steve Henley

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1: 3-9 (NRSVue)

John 20: 19-21; 24-29 (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Third, Third Start-Ups "

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

The Strife Is O'er

No. 236 (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; lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *To God Be the Glory* No. 634
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune (David Johnson)* Steve Henley

***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. His last Sunday is next week, April 30th. Please let Steve know how much you have valued his music ministry and gifts.

Sanctuary Flowers: The flowers this day are given by Carolyn Stinger to the Glory of God and in memory of her parents.

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.

Session Meets in the Parlor After Church: We will convene after worship today in the Parlor.

Uncorked at 5:30 pm: Join us at 5:30 pm in the Parlor to unpack cultural events from a faith perspective. Linda Maddy will be bringing our hors d'oeuvres. Water and beverages will be provided.

No Beloved this Week: We will convene again next Wednesday at two times, at 1 and 3, with our comingling at 2:30-3 pm.

We Wonder: Healing through Community and Awe: This is a 10-week group led by Chris Rhoden and Susan Cromer that invites people who have lost loved ones to share their stories with one another in facilitated groups and to experience the wonder of creation in a series of group walks. The group will meet in the Parlor on Wednesday nights (most likely at 6:30 pm) from May 15-July 26. The cost is \$250 payable in advance. To register go to chris@beachcottagecounseling.com or call Chris at (804) 220-1582. If you would like to participate but cost is a barrier, please reach out to Chris or to Ann. Scholarships are available.

Called Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation Next Sunday April 30th: A meeting of the congregation been called for next Sunday, April 30th, for the purpose of hearing the annual report, affirming our trustees and officers of the corporation, and electing our Nominating Committee.

Annual Congregation / Corporation Meeting Plus Fair- Next Sunday, April 30th: Join us next Sunday for an abbreviated worship service and Lectio Divina practice of entering the sacred text followed by our annual meeting of the congregation and corporation. We will then adjourn to the Fellowship Hall for a Team Fair. We will update you if we are providing a lunch :)

Bulletin Love Needed: Beginning May 1st, we need fresh volunteers to gather information and put together our weekly worship bulletin. This position will input announcements and align the template after the pastor initiates it.

If you have administrative gifts and enjoy organizing data and tracking lists, please see Ann Cherry or any member of Session. Until this gap is filled, we will be without a weekly bulletin. The good news is that LaVerne Miller and Carolyn Stinger will still be printing the bulletin.

Backpack Lawn Blower: If you borrowed the backpack lawn blower, please return it to the shed. It is that time of year again :)

Gratitude Love to Howard Lawrence! Howard has served as our guest choral director and pianist during this interim season. He brought energy and fresh voices into our choir. We are grateful for his hard work that led to joyful and robust anthems that celebrated our liturgical life.

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.

March Madness Wrap: Congratulations to our 2023 winners: Judy Smith and Sharon Riley! They score the Costco sized M&M's.

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.

Another Seminary 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.

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.

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

April Shepherd of the Month: 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 gun violence that ravaged another public space in KY, and an elementary school in Nashville, including for the shooters and their families; let us be in prayer for the stability of the banking market and for our global infrastructure, for those rebuilding from the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, from the misuse of power, by the Ukraine/Russia war, for those who are fighting addiction, battling cancer, 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 to live them out in this world as “salt” and “light.”

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@beachcottagecounseling.com

You can reach Gingerbread Cottage Preschool at (804) 755-1667 or 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



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