



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

Easter 4

April 30, 2023 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE *Morning Prayer (Healey Willan)* 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 Linda Maddy

Leader: Our Good Shepherd Calls – He knows everyone by name!

**People: We come eager to hear his voice and follow him anywhere.**

Leader: Our Good Shepherd leads.

**People: We come eager to listen and to follow him anywhere.**

Leader: Our Good Shepherd protects.

**People: We can feel his love and care surrounding us like a warm embrace!**

\*HYMN *Jesus Call Us* No. 720

*RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Trustworthy God, you beckon us, but we do not heed your call. You gather us, but we wander away losing ourselves in our false selves and seeking superficial comforts rather than your company. You speak truth, but we fail to hear and respond, thinking you must be asking someone else. You ask us to pay attention to the awe and the wonder of your presence all around us, but we often let you go by unnoticed. Wake**

**us up from our slumber and rattle us out of our numbness, so that we can stand tall as your Risen Ones, for we pray this 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

Psalm 23 (NRSVue)

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

Lectio Divina

*"Shepherd Love"*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

### *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*HYMN

*I Come with Joy*

No. 515 (vs. 1,4,5)

CALLED MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

Duane Berger, Clerk

CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

## *BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

\*POSTLUDE

*Fanfare (Eric Thiman)*

Steve Henley

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**\*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 will be commencing a new position as Organist & Director of Music for 2 Sunday Services, Professional Quartet of Singers & Handbell Choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Petersburg. 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 30<sup>th</sup>. Please let Steve know how much you have valued his music ministry and gifts.

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The flowers this day are given by Brenda and Pete MacRae to the Glory of God and in memory of Pete's Mother, Jean MacRae.

**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.

**Called Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation: Today.** A meeting of the corporation has been called for the purpose of affirming our officers. Linda Maddy is president, Rob McBane is treasurer and Duane Berger is Clerk. The session functions as the trustees of the corporation. A congregational meeting has also been called for the purpose of hearing our financial report and for approving our slate for the 2023 Nominating Committee.

**Team Fair Today:** Following worship, please join us in the Fellowship Hall to learn more about each team of the church. It will be an excellent time to ask questions, and to sign-up to serve. We would love to have more voices in the mix. Refreshments will be provided. Thank you to our Session for bringing in our light lunch.

**Abbreviated Worship but Meaningful:** Today we are celebrating an abbreviated worship service using the ancient practice of Lectio Divina as a way of entering the sacred text, followed by our annual meeting of the congregation and corporation.

**Beloved Meets this Week:** We will convene again on Wednesday at two times, at 1 pm and 3 pm, with our comingling between groups at 2:30-3 pm. Please come to the group that best fits your schedule. We are unpacking *Hope: A User's Manual*, written by Presbyterian minister, MaryAnn

McKibbens Dana. We first listen to the piece we are going to discuss before we discuss it. No need to have read the passage before we meet. Books can still be ordered. See Chris or Ann.

**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](mailto: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.

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

**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.

**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 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.

**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.

**April/May Shepherds of the Month:** Our April Shepherd of the Month is Nana Sarfo-Kantanka. You can reach Nana at (804) 922-3557. Our May Shepherd of the Month is Judy Smith. You can reach Judy at (804) 273-6007. Our shepherds provide member care and TLC.

**Call to Prayer:** Let us be in prayer for our political system, for all those impacted by the gun violence 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, for those suffering in 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](mailto:laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com)

You can reach Chris Rhoden at (804) 220-1582 or at [chris@beachcottagecounseling.com](mailto:chris@beachcottagecounseling.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

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Psalm 23, *New Revised Standard, Updated Edition*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.<sup>[b]</sup>

He leads me in right paths<sup>[c]</sup>  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,<sup>[d]</sup>

I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely<sup>[e]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[f]</sup> shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.<sup>[g]</sup>

**Psalm 23, *The Message***

<sup>1-3</sup> GOD, my shepherd!

I don't need a thing.  
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from.  
True to your word,  
you let me catch my breath  
and send me in the right direction.

<sup>4</sup> Even when the way goes through

Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid  
when you walk at my side.  
Your trusty shepherd's crook  
makes me feel secure.

<sup>5</sup> You serve me a six-course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.

You revive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing.

<sup>6</sup> Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life.

I'm back home in the house of GOD  
for the rest of my life.