



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

*Palm Sunday*

April 2, 2023 10 am

*Where Love is Known*

PRELUDE	<i>Elegy (John Ireland)</i>	Steve Henley
PALM PROCESSIONAL		Laurel Choir
RINGING OF THE HOUR		Janice Berger
WELCOME BELOVED ONES		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Carol Cummins

Leader: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People: We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

Leader: The Lord is God and has given us light.

**People: Bind the festival procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar!**

Leader: You are our God and we will give thanks to you!

**People: O let us give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, and God's steadfast love endures forever** (Adapted from Ps. 118).

\* HYMN *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* No. 197

*RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Ambivalent People, we confess that we are all too happy to wave you on and to go along, rather than to stand alone trying to practice love of neighbor. We prefer to shout out our "Hosannas" rather than to lovingly root out injustice or to seek mercy**

**for the marginalized, or to stand up for the collective good. As we kick off this Holy Week, be patient with us as we become lost in this parade and forgetful that Jesus came to save us from ourselves. Help us to not shrink back from bearing your cross into all of the places of our lives and in our world. Pour out your forgiveness generously so that we can bear the tension as people who want to bear your love but who are still quite afraid of it. Help us to live into this liminal space with eyes and hearts wide open, for we pray this in the name of our Suffering Servant, who rides this day into Jerusalem on a donkey but who leaves on a cross on Friday. 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

Philippians 2: 5-11 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

*A Purple Robe, A Crown of Thorn*

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21: 1-11 (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*"Hosanna!"*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

## *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*HYMN

*At the Name of Jesus*

No. 264

**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>All Glory, Laud, and Honor</i>	No. 196 (vs 1,2,&4)
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*POSTLUDE	<i>Rigadom (Andre Campre)</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, 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 Laurel Love to the glory of God in honor of Howard Lawrence and his generous gift of time and talent as he has served as our guest choir director. Howard's last Sunday as our choir director is Easter. Please extend to him our gratitude and love for his service.

**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.

**Walking Through Holy Week:** We leave worship today beginning our walk with our Suffering Servant through his last supper, his betrayal, his false charges of sedition, his crucifixion, his death, and finally his burial – and then we wait in silence. As hard as it is, try to join your heart with his. Try to keep your eyes on his eyes to see it all, and then when the time comes, sit in silence with the emptiness of the tomb. Try to let go of all that is not you at the core and trust that our Beloved One is at work making love known through it all. Perhaps the key to all of this is to honor the movement of the plot unfolding this week. It will make celebrating Easter all the sweeter.

**Palm Sunday:** Today we are celebrating Palm Sunday with waving palm branches and joyful voices as we accompany our Suffering Servant along the parade route as he enters Jerusalem for the last time. Our choir will process in during the Prelude waving palm branches as Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time. The scripture for this day is Matthew 21: 1-11.

**Holy 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. The Scripture for this day is John 13: 1-17.

**Maundy Thursday:** Join us at **12:30 pm** on Thursday, April 6, as we celebrate the Last Supper with our Suffering Servant. We will end the service in silence, and we will strip the sanctuary of all paraments, as we prepare for the cross and tomb ahead. The scripture for this day is Matthew 26:14 – 27:26.

**Good Friday:** Join us on Friday, April 7, from **Noon-3 pm** for a self-guided experience of letting go of all that is not of God as we join in solidarity with our Suffering Servant on the cross. The sanctuary will be opened during this time for meditation and prayer. Tuna fish sandwiches will be provided for those travelers of the cross : ) The scripture for this day is Matthew 27: 27- 61.

**Holy Saturday:** On Saturday it is important to just sit in the uncertainty of the tomb, to sit in the silence with the doubt of not knowing, as the first disciples and Mary did. To sit with your grief and deep disappointment that the one we hail as “Savior” is the one in the tomb this day. Treat this day as if this is the ending. The scripture for this day is Matthew 27: 62-66.

**Easter Sunday Celebrations:** We are offering 2 services to celebrate on Easter Sunday this year along with a joyful party after our 10 a.m. worship service.

**Sunrise Service:** Bundle up and come comfortably dressed as we celebrate at 7 a.m. in our parking lot. Sue Bell will be our worship leader and preacher.

**10 am Worship Service:** Join us at 10 am with our full choir as we continue the celebration that Jesus survived the grave . . . and so do we.

**Cross Flower Love:** Please bring snippets from your gardens to flower the cross to celebrate the gift of forever love.

**Resurrection Sundaes:** The celebration continues on the front lawn after worship with an Easter Egg Hunt along with hot cross buns and Blue Bell ice cream.

**Last Call for Easter Hydrangeas Orders:** Today is the last day to receive your orders for Hydrangeas to decorate our sanctuary on Easter. 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.

**First Sundays Even on Palm Sunday:** Our teams will meet today right after our Palm Sunday celebration. Please consider adding your voice to the mix. Member Care and Missions (MCM) meets in the Parlor, Stewardship and Property meets in the Fellowship Hall, and Worship and Education (WE) meets in the Choir Loft.

**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.

**March Madness Bracket Updates:** Tomorrow night is the conclusion to all of this March Madness. Stay tuned for a bracket update next week. The usual suspects are vying for the Costco sized M&M peanuts: Judy Smith, Sharon Riley and Chris Rhoden.

**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.

**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 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 elementary school in Nashville, including the shooter and their family; let us be in prayer for the stability of the banking market and for our global infrastructure, for the recent Norfolk Southern train derailment in Ohio and Alabama, 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](http://laurelpres.com)



Our QR Code for online donations

Use your camera app to open this link to donate