



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcomes You to Worship!

Ascension Sunday

May 21, 2023 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

| | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| PRELUDE | <i>Prelude IV (Sergei Rachmaninoff)</i> | Peter Edison |
| RINGING OF THE HOUR | | Janice Berger |
| WELCOME BELOVED ONES | | The Rev. Ann D. Cherry |

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP Michael Whitby

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples!

People: God has gone up with a shout!

Leader: Sing praises to God, everyone!

People: For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome (adapted from Ps 47)!

*HYMN *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* No. 260 (vs. 1&4)

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Grace-Filled God, you raise us up with your vision and wrap us in your forever love so that we might ascend and grow. You give us your hopes and dreams, and yet we settle for so much less. You call us to behold your beauty, and yet we keep our eyes fixed on the ground. You call us to claim our innate dignity, and yet we are more comfortable with something less. You clothe us with power from on high, and yet we keep our hearts grounded with fear. You call us to resolve conflict by seeing each other as you see us, and yet we are caught in the bickering and the resentments. May your Spirit lift us up with the One who ascended so that we too might be “one,” and

live from the indwelling of your Love. For we pray this in our Ascended One's name, 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

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1: 1-11 (The Message)

SPECIAL MUSIC

To a Wild Rose (Edward MacDowell)

Peter Edison

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24: 44-53 (NRSVue)

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

Sermon

"Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

In My Life

No. 468

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

Michael Whitby

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

*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 *Crown Him with Many Crowns* No. 268 (vs. 1&4)

*CHARGE AND BLESSING The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*POSTLUDE *How Majestic Is Your Name (Edward Broughton)* Peter Edison

*RECESSION AND GREETING The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

***Please feel free to stand and move during our worship service.**

Lay Reader: Thank you to Michael Whitby for serving as our liturgist today. Michael has returned from a remarkable first year at Virginia Tech. Ask him about his achievements and adventures. It is so good to have him among us.

Welcome back to Peter Edison, our Guest Organist: Peter studied piano at the Juilliard School of Music in New York, followed by regular college in New York, and then law school in Boston. He was hired by the government as an aviation lawyer and worked in DC for approximately 9 years, then became a judge for the Social Security Administration for 35 years. He and his wife Marie live in Cross Ridge.

Sanctuary Flowers: The flowers this day are given by Laurel Love to the Glory of God and in honor of Chris Rhoden for his small group love.

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.

Lingering Today: Thanks to the love of the Member Care and Missions Team, we will have a Lingering right after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Session Meetings Today: The Session will meet right after our Lingering in the Parlor.

Beloved on Wednesday: We will convene 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" to Meet Thursdays at 9 am: 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 Thursday mornings at 9 am from May 18—July 20.** 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.

David McDowell, Seminary Intern, Coming Soon: David will be with us from June 6 through August 13. You will see him in the pulpit, making pastoral calls, teaching Sunday School, and getting to know you as he learns our ropes and the practice of speaking love through this church. He is a second-year student at Union Theological Seminary and is engaged to Sarah Anderson, who is the Business Presentation Specialist at the Virginia Economic Development partnership. Check out our May newsletter for more information. Our team to support David is Mary Jane Bowlin, Gladys Chamberlyane, Michael Henderson, Judy Smith and Carolyn Stinger. We will be welcoming him and Sarah at our Taco Tuesday event on June 13th.

"Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve:" Introducing our new tagline and a fresh new dove design designed by Colleen MacRae Lannetti. This is the tagline that received the most votes this past year. Look for the refrigerator magnets coming soon. Look also for a way to make love known through your worship and service as Laurel Love.

Door Check on Way Out: Just a reminder to double check that the door is locked behind you after you leave the building :)

Website Master: We are looking for someone to keep our website current with our programs and weekly bulletins. To fill this role, you would need a home computer and time to stay on top of this weekly. Training will be provided. We use Word Press.

Sound Booth Need + Training: The WE Team is asking for our help to recruit and equip more people with sound booth skills. It takes two people to stream the worship service each week. The

vision is to set up a schedule so no one team is burdened with this important responsibility which sustains our connection with those who can't get to church. If this interests you, please speak to Rudy Van't Riet, Steve Searce, Michael Henderson or Ann Whitby. It is not as intimidating as it might look.

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 and follow the link there, or the instructions for downloading the giving app.

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 comfortable: You are invited to stand, stretch, and move during our worship service or even to remain seated as the spirit moves you. The coffee bar is in the narthex, please feel free to access it at any point in the worship service.

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.

May Shepherd of the Month: 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 all those impacted by the rampant gun violence, including for the shooters and their families; let us be in prayer to calm the uptick in violence; let us be in prayer for our political system 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 "it" factor, 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

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