



LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcomes You to Worship!*

Easter 6

May 14, 2023 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

Teresa Hudson

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Rudy Van't Riet

*GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Maddy

Leader: Like a Mother Hen, who gathers in her chicks . . .

**People: We gather to lift our voices in praise to you, O God!**

Leader: Like Mary, mother of Jesus, who wondered, "how can this be?"

**People: We gather in awe and wonder of your steadfast love for us.**

\*HYMN

*Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*

No. 395

*RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Living God, there are so many ways we have not followed the nudgings of your Spirit to translate your love into practice. We want to follow the call of your indwelling One, but we hesitate. We fear that we will not be received. We fear that we do not know how to love. We fear that we will trip up, so we stop trying. Give us the courage to love others as Jesus loves us. To risk offering lovingkindness rather than either jumping to conclusions or withholding a kind word or action. Help us to see you in everyone**

**we meet, 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 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 17: 22-29 (The Message)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Teresa Hudson

SCRIPTURE

John 14: 15-21 (NRSVue)

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

Sermon

*"Closer than our Breath"*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

### *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*HYMN

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

No. 828

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

*A Brief Statement of Faith*

Linda Maddy

**We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,**

**male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.  
Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

*OUR RESPONSE	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	Hymn No. 606
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

***BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD***

*HYMN	<i>Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!</i>	No. 804 (vs. 1,4,5)
*CHARGE AND BLESSING		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*POSTLUDE		Teresa Hudson
*RECESSION AND GREETING		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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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.

**Welcome to Teresa Hudson, Guest Organist:** Teresa Hudson, a native of Powhatan County, has been playing for Richmond area churches since she was 16. She holds graduate degrees from the University of Richmond and VCU, is a member of the American Guild of Organists, and runs an Airbnb on her equestrian farm, Terre Haute, “for fun.”

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The flowers this day are given by Glenda and Clint Miller and Howard Lawrence to the Glory of God and in honor of Mary Lawrence on Mother’s Day.

**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.

**Happy Mother’s Day:** A big shout-out to all of those in our lives who have nurtured us, nourished us, and “mothered” us in one way or another. This is a gift, not just a byproduct of biology or genes. We are grateful for the tender love of all those who took an interest in us and made us better humans.

**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.

**Ice Cream Love on Thursday Afternoon!** Join us for an afternoon delight at Bruster’s on Staples Mill Road, on Thursday at 3 pm, for some laughter and yes, some ice cream.

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

**Session Meetings Next Sunday:** The Session will meet right after our Lingering next Sunday.

**“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](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.

**“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 Scarce, 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](http://LaurelPres.com) and follow the link there, or the instructions for downloading the giving app.

**David McDowell, Seminary Intern, One Month Out:** David will start with us in June. He is a second-year student at Union Theological Seminary. You can read all about him in our latest Gazette.

**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.

**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

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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**

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