



Laurel Presbyterian Church

Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Welcomes You!

Baptism of our Lord

January 11, 2026, 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

James A. Sudbury

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Laurel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Julie Messick

Leader: Come to the river Jordan.

People: And discover a God who delights in us.

Leader: Come to the waters of awe and wonder.

People: And discover a God who sees us as precious and beloved ones.

Leader: Come to the waters of love.

People: And claim the Love that claims us.

*HYMN

My Hope is Built On Nothing Less

No. 353

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our Ancestors, when we forget that we are “your beloved ones,” draw us in closer to you. When we fail to hear your voice of love, whisper your tender words of affirmation. When we do not reflect your cosmic image, remind us that we are made from you to be your loving presence in this world. Immerse us in your grace and renew us so we might be part of mending your weary world. Have mercy on us when we lose our way, overreach our limits, or doubt our impact as healers. Ground us in

your wisdom and your genuine delight of our raw humanity. And remind us that your light shines on inside of us, and inside this weary world—no matter what. For we pray all these things in the name of your Beloved Son, who is and was and always will be, our Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION. . . AMEN.

FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Leader: Cherished People of God, hear the good news! Our God remembers our sin no more! Let us claim the love that claims us by walking in our Belovedness.

People: **With great gratitude, we give ourselves to you to be reshaped into God's Love-Led people.**

*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

Matthew 3: 13-17 (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Feed My Lambs

Laurel Choir

SERMON

"Living the Incarnation"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

BEHOLDING LOVE IN THE WORLD

*HYMN

I Will Come to You

No. 177

A SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Confession of 1967

Julie Messick

Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry, and is responsible for the integrity of their witness in their particular situation. He or she is entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community and subject to its advice and correction. He or she in turn, in their own competence, helps to guide the church.

In recognition of the special gifts of the Spirit and for the ordering of its life as a community, the church calls, trains, and authorizes certain members for leadership and oversight. The persons qualified for these duties, in accordance with the polity of the church, are set apart by ordination or other appropriate acts and thus made responsible for their special ministries.

* OUR RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn No. 606

A LITANY OF COMMISSIONING

Julie Messick/Rev. Ann

Leader: There are different gifts.

People: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Leader: There are different ways of serving our Beloved God.

People: But it is the same Lord who is served.

Leader: Love works through different people in different ways.

People: Yet, it is the same God who brings Love forth.

Leader: Each one of us is gifted by the Spirit—

People: To use it for the common good.

Leader: Though we have different gifts, we all are made from the same divine matter for the practice of Love. Within our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular functions, such as ministers and elders. As a church family, we recognize these special gifts, remembering that our Lord Jesus said, “whoever among you desires to be great, must first become the servant of all.”

People: Just as the Son of Humanity came not to be served, but to serve, we are called to put our “Gifts of the Spirit” in service to mend our dispirited world, to lift up the marginalized, and to speak Love in “word and deed,” until all people know that they are Beloved Ones, too.

QUESTIONS OF OFFICERS-ELECT AND CONGREGATION

PRAYER AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

PRONOUNCEMENT OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

WELCOME AND BLESSING

*HYMN

You Belong to Christ

No. 492 (2 times)

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: Very Light of Very Light, 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: **Instrument of Love, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory to God in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Glory to God in the highest.**

Leader: We praise you, Beloved One . . . All praise to you, Lord Jesus:

People: **Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory . . .**

Leader: True God of True God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us . . . For we pray all of these things in the name of the One who has Come:

People: **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.**

Leader: And by your Spirit, Almighty God, draw us together . . . Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION AND CANDLES AT THE COMMUNION TABLE

Those who would like to receive communion by intinction are invited to come forward. Rev. Ann will also bring the elements to you in the pews.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

Seek Thee First

No. 175

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*POSTLUDE

James A. Sudbury

*RECESSION AND GREETING

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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

****Please wait to greet each other until the worship leaders have recessed down the aisle.**

Flowers For Today:

The flowers this day are given by Mary Jane Bowlin to the glory of God and in memory of "Flash" Bowlin's birthday.

Gratitude to our Liturgist: Thank you to Julie Messick for serving as our liturgist today.

Congratulations to our New Elders: With love, today we ordain and install Thomas Miller, and install Gladys Chamberlayne, as newly elected ruling elders of Laurel Presbyterian Church.

Baptism of our Lord: Today we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord and discover a God who not only delights in Jesus, but also in us.

Season of Epiphany: This is the season of following the light, of being the light, of gleaning insight from the light, and of huddling around the light just as the Magi, who dared to trust their inner experience of God and follow the star to the Messiah. How are we daring to trust our inner experience of God, too? And where will it lead us this year? This year can be different. Listen for how.

Gratitude for the Steady Presence of Laurel Love: Thank you to Carolyn Stinger for her copy editing, Beverley Shepherd for serving as our Announcements Editor, Billy Shepherd for tending

to our church sign, Mary Searce and Carolyn for printing our materials, Brenda and Pete MacRae, for serving as our newsletter editors, and to Brenda MacRae, our website master.

Today, we De-Decorate the Church with a Pizza Lunch: Please stay and follow the direction of Michael Henderson as we de-decorate the church from Advent and Christmas. Pizza will be served. Our pizza will replace our Lingering for this month. Lingerings are typically the second Sunday of each month.

Today, Personnel Meets Today in the Parlor: Our Personnel Team will meet following worship today in the Parlor.

On Tuesday, Circle meets: Our Circle will meet on Tuesday at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. Our Circle moderator is Joan McArthur, and our Circle Teachers are Rebecca Owen and Beverley Shepherd.

On Wednesday, Beloved at 3 pm meets: Our 3 pm Beloved group will meet to discuss sections of Chapter 2 of Parker Palmer's book, *On the Brink of Everything*. Our 1 pm Beloved group will meet next on January 14th to discuss chapters 1 and 2 in Kate Bowler's book, *Everything Happens for a Reason—And the Other Lies I've Loved*. Nancy Owens will be facilitating our 1 pm Beloved meeting.

Sign-up for Supper Club: Supper Club will prepare a BBQ meal next Thursday, January 22nd at 3:30pm. Sign up to bring a part of the meal. Susan Dameron is our chef.

Gratitude to Yesterday's Helpers: With joy we opened our doors to host the memorial service for Clifton Edwards. Thank you to all of you who helped—Carol Cummins, Michael Henderson, Thomas Miller, Carolyn Stinger, Billy Shepherd, James Sudbury and Rudy vant Riet. A special note of gratitude to Michael who coordinated all of these details.

Updated 2026 Church Calendars: You will find our updated Church calendars on the bulletin board. The calendar was last updated Saturday.

Study Leave: Rev. Ann will be on study leave from tomorrow through Monday February 2 to complete this last leg of her Doctor of Ministry degree. She is grateful to you for this space of time to ponder how God is speaking Love through our church. She began this journey when she came here in 2020. During this time, if you have an urgent pastoral need, please reach out to her. In the interim, she has arranged for three wonderful preachers to fill the pulpit. Please give them a warm Laurel welcome.

Adverse Weather: As you know we will always err on the side of caution. Your well-being is most important to us. Please check your email in Sunday mornings, and we will attempt to call you about worship changes. Please do not venture out if it does not feel safe to you.

All are Welcome! The signature gift of Laurel Love is our affection and love for God and for one another.

Tithes and Our Offerings: We have placed a small, white, church house on the table outside and invite you to leave your gifts to support God's work as you depart.

There are two other ways to give: You can mail in your offering using our post office address at P.O. Box 1280, Glen Allen, VA 23060-1280. Or you can make a safe online donation by using our QR code (by opening your camera and focusing on the code) found below on our bulletin or through our website.

However you choose to support Laurel, we appreciate your love.

Matthew 3:13-17, *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,^[a] with whom I am well pleased."

Laurel Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry, Minister
Marcy Deisher, Treasurer
Peter MacRae, Bookkeeper
Gladys Chamberlayne, Elder
Julie Messick, Elder, VTF
Thomas Miller, Elder

James A. Sudbury, Director of Music
Jill Day, Clerk
Rebecca Owen, Elder, MCM Team
Rudy Van't Riet, Elder, SP Team
Bill Shepherd, Elder, WE Team

You can contact Rev. Ann D. Cherry at (804) 873-1990 or at laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com

You can reach James Sudbury at (661) 466-7347 or at jamesandrewsudbury@gmail.com

Open your camera to capture the QR code to make a safe online donation to Laurel.



Where Love is Known

P.O. Box 1280, Glen Allen, VA 23060-1280 / laurelpres.com

“You are precious in my sight and honored and oh so loved.” Isaiah 43:4

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