



Laurel Presbyterian Church
Enter to Worship. Depart to Serve

Welcomes You!

Christmas 2

January 4, 2026 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

James A. Sudbury

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

James Sudbury

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Laurel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rebecca Owen

Leader: Live joy.

People: Our Messiah has been born!

Leader: Live Love!

People: Our lives are different!

*HYMN

Go Tell it On the Mountain

No. 136

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, of new beginnings, we come to the start of this new year still starstruck at the manger, wondering how we can claim the love that claims us here. We feel so unworthy of your goodness and yet you became human to show us that we are inherently good, and that we belong to you. We want to believe that you live inside of us, that you are incarnate, but we are afraid to look, afraid of being disappointed. Help us to know, even where we doubt, that your gift is within to be savored and shared. Nudge our reservations to the sidelines so we might cohabit with the awe of being prized by you. Let this new year be the start of receiving your love and radiating it by naming our particular gifts and offering them back to you. Let this year

be different because we have been to the manger and know “what child is this,” that we too, are beheld by Love beholding us. For we pray this in the name of the One who was born to free us from our smaller selves, and 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! Jesus came to show us the face of Love. A way of Love that meets us in our own messy stables, beholding our raw beauty as precious and oh so loved.

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

*OUR RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

Hymn No. 581

PROCLAIMING LOVE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9: 6-7, NRSVue

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

*CAROL

Good Christians Friend, Rejoice

No. 132

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1- 4a, 6-9a NRSVue

Beverley Shepherd

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

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 133 (v.1-3)

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1: 26-35, 38, NRSVue

Paige Nobles

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

*CAROL

What Child is This?

No. 145

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7, NRSVue

Michael Henderson

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

*CAROL

Away in the Manger

No. 115

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-20, NRSVue

Carol Cummins

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

*CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 127

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-11, NRSVue

Mary Scearce

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

*CAROL

We Three Kings of Orient Are

No. 151 (v. 1-3)

SEVENTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 13-23, NRSVue

Rebecca Owen

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

MUSICAL MEDITATION

James Sudbury

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

Rebecca Owen

**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.**

BEHOLDING LOVE IN THE WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

Leader: We pray that you would soften our hearts so we might say “yes!” just as Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and as the wisemen all did.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “hold hope” even in this present darkness—even into our own darkness.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “be peace” when the world is shattering before us—even into our own shatterings.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “hold joy” even when we see so much suffering—even into our own pain.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “be love” even for our “porcupine” neighbors—even into our most unlovable places.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might find a way of being a people who live hope, bring peace, illuminate joy, and incarnate love in a world that is still weary and seeking. May we always

anchor ourselves in you—from the stable to the cross—and in all the ordinary times in between—as we let you lead us to become God-Led people.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We humbly bring our world to you and ask for your healing until all that is left is your Love.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: For we dare to pray all these things in the name of our Messiah, who taught us to pray:

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.

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*CAROL

We Three Kings of Orient Are

No. 151 (v. 4-5)

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

*POSTLUDE

James A. Sudbury

*RECESSION AND GREETING

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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

Please wait to greet each other until the ministers have recessed down the aisle.

Liturgist: Thank you to Rebecca Owen for serving as our liturgist today.

Readers: Thank you to Carol Cummens, Michael Henderson, Rebecca Owen, Paige Nobles, Mary Scearce, and Beverley Shepherd for serving as our Lesson Readers today.

All Are Welcome! The signature gift of Laurel Love is our affection and love for God and for one another. Please come back to share in our love for one another.

Laurel Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry, Minister
 Jill Day, Clerk
 Peter MacRae, Bookkeeper
 Linda Maddy, Elder, WE Team
 Julie Messick, Elder, VTF
 Rebecca Owen, Elder, MCM Team

James A. Sudbury, Director of Music
 Marcy Deisher, Treasurer
 Bill Shepherd, Elder, WE Team
 Carolyn Stinger, Elder, MCM Team
 Rudy Van't Riet, Elder, SP 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

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.

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



Where Love Is Known

laurelpres.com

P.O. Box 1280, Glen Allen, VA 23060-1280

Merry Christmas

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