



Laurel Presbyterian Church
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Welcomes You!

Lent 1

February 22, 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

Carol Cummins

Leader: We gather to remember that we are named, as people of God: “formed,”
“appointed,” and called “Beloved Ones.”

People: When tempted to live from our image of ourselves . . .

Leader: We come to remember we are “precious and honored.”

**People: When tempted to swap God’s identity with another’s, or when we forget
to live out of our identity . . .**

Leader: We come to remember that we are made from Love.

People: When tempted to treat ourselves poorly . . .

Leader: We come to remember that we are made “to be love” now.

**People: When tempted to be unkind or tempted to withhold mercy, justice and
compassion . . .**

ALL: We come to recover who we are in God!

*HYMN

We Gather Together

No. 336

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the Wilderness, from the beginning of time you have called us to remember who we are especially when we are in uncertainty, or overwhelmed by harsh conditions, or when we lose our way. Much like Adam and Eve, we entrust “others,” even slithering snakes, with keepers of who we are and your purpose for our lives. We have even traded on it for a momentary boost or gain, like Eve. Yet you beckon us to return to you, to recover our true identities. To return to you, and trust who you say we are. To return to you, and trust that you have named us, called us, appointed us, loved us with intention and goodness. Unfortunately, we are tempted away from owning that we are “precious, honored and oh so loved” by anything and anyone who refutes it. Our true identity gets lost in the shuffle to accommodate a world that has forgotten you as Creator. Restore us to our original likeness as imaged in you. Have mercy on us when we stumble, and bring us back to life, so we might hold fast to what is true. Remind us that your covenantal love is stronger than anything we might face, because you are always “with us,” holding onto “our true selves—” and re-patterning us from your goodness. Thank you for restoring our identities through our Suffering Servant, who is the pure image of You, 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! We are made from cosmic material, and because we are, we can always return again and again to recover our true identities in you.

People: **With great gratitude, we return ourselves to you to claim our identity as your Beloved Ones, to live as your God-Directed 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

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7 (NRSVue, The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MUSICAL MEDITATION

A New Psalm Of Hope

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4: 1-11 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Identity: God's Provision of Love"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

BEHOLDING LOVE IN THE WORLD

*HYMN

As Dew Falls Gently at Dawn

No. 461

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

Philippians 2: 5-11

Carol Cummins

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

Leader: We pray that you would return us to our true identities so we might live from your love within.

Silence

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that you would soften our hearts so we might say "yes!" to all that you do.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “be light” 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 instruments of your peace” when the world is shattering before us—even into our own shattering’s.

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 suffering.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “be love” even when challenged by our most challenging neighbors—even into our most unlovable places.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “trust” you and who say we are in you; and ask that you deepen our understanding and practice of living as “precious, honored and oh so loved ones.” We thank you for this your provision of identity to protect us from temptations, and from losing our way when challenged.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray for all those who are dealing with harsh realities, enduring medical challenges, grieving, under the weather, isolated, healing, sleep deprived, addicted, facing

housing and food deserts, and emotionally under the weather—and we pray that you would hold us tenderly—surfacing tangible forms of comfort, and deepening our trust in you.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: For we dare to pray all these things in the name of our Suffering Servant, 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.

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

Be Still, My Soul

No. 819

*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.**

Gratitude to our Liturgist: Thank you to Beverley Shepherd for serving as our liturgist today.

Gratitude for the Steady Presence of Laurel Love: Thank you to Carolyn Stinger for her copy editing, Billy Shepherd for tending to our church sign, Mary Searce and Carolyn for our printing, Brenda and Pete MacRae, for serving as our newsletter editors, Brenda MacRae, our website master, and Tod Balsbaugh, Marshall Chamberlayne, Wayne Alvis and Pete MacRae for tending to our building and grounds.

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

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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