



Laurel Presbyterian Church
Enter to Worship. Depart to Serve

Welcomes You!

Transfiguration Sunday

February 15, 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

Beverley Shepherd

Leader: Come, climb up the mountain with Jesus—

People: and behold the glory of the Lord.

Leader: Come, climb up the mountain with Peter, John and James—

People: and behold the Son of God, The Beloved!

Leader: Come, climb up the mountain of God—

People: and behold who you really are, and “Listen to Him!”

*HYMN

Morning Has Broken

No. 664

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSON

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSON

Very Light of Very Light, sometimes we are so blinded by your presence that we miss your Love in our midst. You ask us “to see” our neighbor as “you see” us. Yet sometimes we are so blinded by our preconceptions that we miss seeing your glow in those around us. You also ask us to see ourselves as you see us. Yet sometimes we are so focused on how we have failed you that we miss all the ways you are transforming us. We thank you for showing us who we really are in Jesus. Help us to believe you,

and to know that “we are your beloved ones in whom you are well pleased.” Forgive us when we do not let you have the last word about our identity. Forgive us when we do not “Listen to Him!” Forgive us when we do not listen to your Spirit within. Strengthen our capacity to trust our image and likeness in yours, along with your way of seeing, so that we might appreciate that all of us are part of your beloved gaze. And have mercy on us always, for we pray this in Jesus’ name, 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 with cosmic material, and because we are, we can always begin again, to claim the love that claims us.

People: With great gratitude, we return ourselves to you to be transformed into 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

Exodus 24: 12-18 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MUSICAL MEDITATION

A Jubilant Call to Praise

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 17: 1-9 (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Feed My Lambs

Laurel Choir

SERMON

“Beloved: Listen and Trust”

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

BEHOLDING LOVE IN THE WORLD

*HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

No. 12

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 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 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 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 for all those who are grieving, under the weather, isolated because of the weather, recovering, sleep deprived and worried—and we pray that you would hold each one tenderly—comforting and deepening our trust in you.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “listen,” and “trust,” who you tell us we are, so we might be your presence of love in this world.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: For we dare to pray all these things in the name of our Beloved Lord, 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

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

No. 1

*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, Beverley Shepherd for serving as our Announcements Editor, Billy Shepherd for tending to our church sign, Mary Scearce and Carolyn for printing our materials, Brenda and Pete MacRae, for serving as our newsletter editors, Brenda MacRae, our website master and to Tod Balsbaugh and Marshall Chamberlayne for their care of our building and grounds during these extreme weather events.

The Transfiguration: Today is the last day of Epiphany, the day when God fully discloses to us who Jesus is to God—God's Beloved Son—and who we are inside of Jesus. It is a mountain top experience as this season ends with start of Lent on Wednesday. It is a day where we see clearly that identity is key to our ongoing transformation as the people of God. Please pause and take the time to reclaim who you are in this great revelation so you can trust God to guide you through the upcoming Lent believing it is true. Trusting who we really are in God protects us from temptations and from losing our way in storms.

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

Exodus 24: 12-18, *The Message*

GOD said to Moses, "Climb higher up the mountain and wait there for me; I'll give you tablets of stone, the teachings and commandments that I've written to instruct them." So Moses got up, accompanied by Joshua his aide. And Moses climbed up the mountain of God.

He told the elders of Israel, "Wait for us here until we return to you. You have Aaron and Hur with you; if there are any problems, go to them."

Then Moses climbed the mountain. The Cloud covered the mountain. The Glory of GOD settled over Mount Sinai. The Cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day he called out of the Cloud to Moses. In the view of the Israelites below, the Glory of GOD looked like a raging fire at the top of the mountain.

Moses entered the middle of the Cloud and climbed the mountain. Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 17: 1-9, *NRSVue*

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the

ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Laurel Presbyterian Church

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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

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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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