



Laurel Presbyterian Church  
*Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve*

Welcomes You!

Lent 2

March 1, 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
LENTING WITH LOVE	Mary Jane Bowlin

## GATHERING AROUND LOVE

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP	Laurel Choir
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Paige Nobles

Leader: We lift up my eyes to the hills—from where does our help come?

**People: Our help comes from the Lord our God who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: The Lord is our keeper and protector—from where does our help come?

**People: The Lord will keep watch over us from this time on and forevermore.**  
(adapted from Psalm 121)

\*HYMN *God of Our Life* No. 686

## RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all our comings and goings, you are always drawing us into new life, and yet we fight against surrendering. Like Nicodemus before us, we want to understand how this might be—how might we be “born from above?” And yet, we shrink back from embracing this mystery of rebirth. We long to be made new—but without the labor pains and messiness of new life. We want resurrection without crucifixion; transformation without letting our former images die—of you and ourselves. Forgive**

our misunderstanding of your identity as we cling to worn-out images of who you are. Forgive our doubts that you are "The Trustee" of our true image and likeness. Forgive our desire to control every step of the transformation process and bypass mystery. When we fall back into old patterns, have mercy on us. Remind us that nothing in our story is wasted, and that even our failures are used in your redemption story. With gratitude, we thank you for restoring our real identities and for reminding us of who you are, through our Suffering Servant, who is the purest image of You, 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 reclaim 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 12: 1-4a (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Wonderful is the Lord*

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

John 3: 1-8 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*"Tell Me Again"*

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

## *BEHOLDING LOVE IN THE WORLD*

\*HYMN

*Fight the Good Fight*

No. 846

**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

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: God of Rebirths, 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: Trustee of our True Selves, 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: Incarnate God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us . . . For we pray all of these things in the name of our Suffering Servant:

**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	<i>The Bread and the Wine Are Here</i>	No. 512 ( <i>two times</i> )
*CHARGE AND BLESSING		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*POSTLUDE		James A. Sudbury
*RECESSION AND GREETING		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

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**\*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 Paige Nobles 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 Balsbuagh, 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

James A. Sudbury, Director of Music  
Jill Day, Clerk

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

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

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