



Laurel Presbyterian Church
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Welcomes You!

Lent 5

March 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

LENTING WITH LOVE

Mary Scarce

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Laurel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Scarce

Leader: We wait for the Lord, our soul waits . . .

People: and in God's Word we hope.

Leader: O People of God, hope in the Lord!

People: For with the Lord there is steadfast love and release from our captivity (Based on Psalm 130).

*HYMN

O For a Closer Walk with God

No. 739

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Beloved One, we want to believe that you unbind us from our dead places, and even raise us from the dead, like Lazarus, but our fear and resistance get in the way of believing. We do not want to follow Jesus through "death" to get to resurrection. But that is the pattern you show us—"life, death and resurrection—" over and over.

Forgive us for holding onto the familiar and thinking that is all there is to your Love. Forgive us when we are our own worst enemies—as doubts creep in, and we fight “the dying.” Forgive us when we resist this way of descending—even as your love is seen best here. Help us to let go, trusting that you have us when we do. Awaken us to your love that holds on to us through these wilderness places. Have mercy on us as we stumble and grip, as tight as we can, to what we have known as life, for we pray this through our Suffering Servant, who shows us how, 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 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

John Texts 11, Abbrev Texts (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

A Time for Everything

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

John Texts 11, Abbrev Texts (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

HOMILY

“Do You Believe This?”

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

BEING LOVE IN THE WORLD

*HYMN

What Shall I Render to the Lord

No. 655

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

Philippians 2: 5-11

Mary Scearce

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: Awaken us to your love that our endings are not final—that resurrection and life follow death and dying. Buoy our faith when we doubt and help us to believe that your love is found in the pattern of Jesus—life, death and resurrection.

Silence

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “trust” you, and “of who you say we are in you;” and we ask that you deepen our understanding, and practice of, living as “precious, honored and oh so loved.”

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: 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.

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

No. 450 (Verses 1-2)

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING / ANNUAL MEETING / MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

THE BUDGET

Pete MacRae

OUR TEAM REPORTS

MCM, SP, WE, VTF

MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

Jill Day, Clerk

BEARING LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*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 Mary Scarce 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 Scearce, Beverley Shepherd 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.

John 11:1-48, *The Message*

A man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. This was the same Mary who massaged the Lord's feet with aromatic oils and then wiped them with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Master, the one you love so very much is sick."

When Jesus got the message, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son."

Jesus said, "Your brother will be raised up."

Martha replied, "I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time."

"You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?"

Jesus looked her in the eye. "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone."

They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me."

Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face.

Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him loose."

That was a turning point for many of the Jews who were with Mary. They saw what Jesus did, and believed in him. But some went back to the Pharisees and told on Jesus. The high priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Jewish ruling body. "What do we do now?" they asked. "This man keeps on doing things, creating God-signs. If we let him go on, pretty soon everyone will be believing in him and the Romans will come and remove what little power and privilege we still have."

Laurel Presbyterian Church

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

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

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