



Laurel Presbyterian Church
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Welcomes You!

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026, 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE		James A. Sudbury
RINGING OF THE HOUR		Janice Berger
INVITATION TO STRIP OUR SINS FROM THE CROSS AND PLACE IN BAPTISMAL FONT		All of Us
RETURNED TO OUR IMAGE AND LIKENESS THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM		
Leader:	Good People: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own People so that you may declare the wonderful deeds of God who called you out of darkness into God's own marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).	
People:	We were buried with him by baptism, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Love of God—Our sins are no more!	
Leader:	Cherished People, as far as the east is from the west—	
People:	We walk in newness of life—Our sins are no more! Hallelujah, Amen!!	
PROCESSION OF THE CHOIR		Laurel Choir
*HYMN	<i>Jesus Christ is Risen Today</i>	No. 232
DRESSING OF THE SANCTUARY		Elders
CROSS OF NAILS REPLACED BY FLOWERING CROSS		All of Us

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP		Aaron Volovick
WELCOME BELOVED ONES		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Beverley Shepherd
Leader:	Christ is Risen!	
People:	He is Risen Indeed!	
Leader:	Darkness turns to Morning!	

People: Death is replaced by Everlasting Life!

Leader: The Gift of God for the People of God!

People: Love Triumphs over Evil!

*HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

No. 238

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Joy, where despair still lingers, raise us up in hope. Where we still cling to inaccurate images of ourselves, raise us up in your image. Where grief and wounds still fester, raise us up with compassion and kindness. Where sin and fear still haunt us, raise us up with tenderness and forgiveness. Where we neglect or dismiss that we are your beloved ones, raise us up with wonder and awe. Have mercy on us when we forget that we are your forever Easter people because of your goodness and your Love. Remind us that “in your sight, we are always precious, and honored, and oh so loved.” Enable us to go forth fueled by your Love to behold the risen Christ in ourselves and in each another, for we pray this in the name of our Risen One, who is the purest 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 truth in you.

People: With great gratitude, we return ourselves to you to reclaim our identity as your Beloved Ones—to live as your Love-Led 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

Beverley Shepherd

SCRIPTURE

John 20: 1-10 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S LOVE

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

MUSICAL DEVOTION

The Bells of Easter are Ringing

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

John 20: 11-18 (The Message)

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

SERMON

"Love Calls us by Name"

The Rev. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

The Day of Resurrection!

No. 233

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith

Beverley Shepherd

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

*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: Easter God, we are filled with joy that we can't even begin to express. We are overcome that morning follows darkness, that life follows death, and we give you thanks for loving us so much that you deliver us from death to everlasting life.

Silence

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might hold onto all that we love best about you. Let us easily spot your revelation in everyone and in your created order. Move our hearts to awe and wonder.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might “trust” your Goodness at deeper and deeper levels, and “trust who you say we are in you.” And we ask that you might strengthen our identity as your Easter people who are “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: We pray that you would continue to awaken us to realize that our endings are not final—that resurrection and life, follow dying and death; just like day follows the night. Hear our deepest concerns about submitting to this pattern of—life, death and resurrection even as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ who survived the grave. Remove our fears and replace them with new hope.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray for all those who do not yet know that they too are your Easter people. We pray for all who are dealing with harsh realities, enduring medical challenges, grief, isolation, uncertainty, unforgiving timelines, sleep deprivation, addiction, housing and food

deserts, lack of resources to pay monthly bills, and all those who are emotionally under the weather or feeling unloved—and we pray that you would hold us tenderly—surfacing tangible forms of comfort, deepening our hope in you, while finding ways for us to be merciful.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: For we dare to pray all these things in the name of our Risen 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	<i>Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing</i>	No. 239
*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*POSTLUDE		James A. Sudbury
*RECESSION AND GREETING		The Rev. Ann D. Cherry
*PEALING OF THE BELL		Michael Henderson

***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.**

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

Gratitude to All Who Brought our Sanctuary Back to Life: Thank you to the Bergers for the geranium and flowering love, to our elders for dressing our sanctuary with the symbols and vestments of Love, to James Sudbury for his incredible musical talents, to Aaron Volovick for sharing his saxophone gifts, to the Laurel Choir for bringing the beauty of music, for Michael Henderson and Bill Shepherd for their cross love. Thank you to all who showed us that “Christ is Risen Indeed!”

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 Scarce, 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.

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

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Where Love Is Known

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