



Laurel Presbyterian Church

*Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve*

*Welcomes You!*

Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 2026, 10:00 AM

## Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

James Sudbury

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

## *GATHERING AROUND LOVE*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

James Sudbury

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Scarce

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

**People: Fill us with wisdom.**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

**People: We thirst to receive your presence and power.**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

**People: Light a holy fire in us to bravely be your Love.**

\*HYMN

*Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

No. 279

## *RECEIVING LOVE*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever Present God, you pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and fill us with your dreams and your visions of how love can be made known. You reside in us and surround us with your wisdom. For “you so loved the world” that you did not create and then step aside. And yet, we are constantly second guessing how we could be filled with the Spirit and entrusted to let you work through us. We do not think you have clothed us**

**with powers to heal, uplift, and try new things. We do not think that you can transform us or others through us. Forgive our reluctance to take you seriously. Help us to pivot away from our fears that that we are not enough, or do not have enough, to have impact. Have mercy on us when we hold back from sharing your love. For we pray these things in the name of Jesus, 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—trusting you to recreate us into 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

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

SCRIPTURE

John 3: 16, 14:15-20 (NRSVue)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

MUSICAL DEVOTION

*Word Of God, Come Down On Earth*

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2: 1-10, 14-21 (The Message)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*"For God So Loved the World!"*

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

## *RESPONDING IN LOVE*

\*HYMN

*On Pentecost They Gathered*

No. 289

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

\*OUR RESPONSE

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Hymn No. 606

### ***RECEIVING LOVE TO BE LOVE***

RECEIVING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

*Dr. Ann will invite you forward to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit that has been poured out for all of us for God so Loved the World.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

Leader: We pray that we would take seriously your empowerment of us as a people to receive your Spirit and to live from it—forgiving and releasing people as you have forgiven and released us.

***Silence.***

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayers.**

Leader: We pray that you would soften our hearts so we might "be opened" to your Love.

**Silence**

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayers.**

Leader: We give thanks for all those who have sacrificed their lives so we might have freedom on this Memorial Day Weekend.

*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 dis-ease.

*Silence.*

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayers.**

Leader: We pray that we might be surprised by “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” your Goodness at deeper and deeper levels, and “trust who you say we are in you.”

*Silence.*

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayers.**

Leader: We lift up all those who are dealing with forthcoming surgeries, harsh realities, enduring medical challenges, recovering from surgeries, gripping grief, isolation, uncertainty, unforgiving timelines, sleep deprivation, addiction, housing and food deserts, lack of resources for basic needs, and those who are emotionally under the weather or feeling unloved—and we pray that you would hold us tenderly—surfacing tangible forms of comfort, 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 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

*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

No. 291

\*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

\*POSTLUDE

James Sudbury

\*RECESSION AND GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

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**\*Please feel free to stand and move during our worship service.**

**\*\*Please wait to greet each other until the minister have recessed down the aisle.**

**Gratitude to our Liturgist:** Thank you to Mary Scarce for serving as our liturgist this week.

**Laurel Presbyterian Church**

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry, Minister

James A. Sudbury, Director of Music

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### **Where Love Is Known**

P.O. Box 1280, Glen Allen, VA 23060-1280

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

## Scripture for this Week

*Acts 2: 1-11, 14-21 (The Message)*

### **A Sound Like a Strong Wind**

**2** <sup>1-4</sup> When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

<sup>5-11</sup> There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

Parthians, Medes, and Elamites;

Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia,

Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,

Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene;

Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes;

Even Cretans and Arabs!

"They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

### **Peter Speaks Up**

<sup>14-21</sup> That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning.

This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says,

"I will pour out my Spirit

on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy,

also your daughters;

Your young men will see visions,

your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes,

I'll pour out my Spirit

On those who serve me, men and women both,

and they'll prophesy.

I'll set wonders in the sky above

and signs on the earth below,

Blood and fire and billowing smoke,

the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,

Before the Day of the Lord arrives,

the Day tremendous and marvelous;

And whoever calls out for help

to me, God, will be saved."