



Laurel Presbyterian Church

Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Welcomes You!

Trinity Sunday

May 31, 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 Julie Messick

Leader: God, our Father, invites us to gather in Love.

People: Holy, Holy, Holy!

Leader: God, our Son, invites us to be love, and to follow love.

People: Lord God Almighty!

Leader: God, our Spirit, invites us to listen and act.

People: God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* No. 1

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Triune One, you are the name above all names, and yet you defy “names” and categorizations. By nature, you transcend all human labels and language. You are organically diverse as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and your plurality invites and includes our own diversity as reflections of you. Yet, we tend to be so quick to sort, separate and judge each other’s value based on our differences. Have mercy on us when we do for we are not honoring you. It takes the Body of Christ to begin to

approximate and see all of your characteristics. Therefore help us each day to appreciate your image mirrored in each other and in creation. Spare us from rash judgements and even help us to embrace our own uniqueness that is your gift to us and your world. Help us to grow in our appreciation of living more faithfully to honor you as God, our Creator, Jesus, our Redeemer, and the Spirit, as our Sustainer, for we boldly 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 be 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 form 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

Genesis 1, Selected Passages (NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

MUSICAL DEVOTION

I Surrender All to You

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28: 16-20 (The Message)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Core Love Affair "

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

*What We Love Best About God*¹

No. 275* (see insert)

Melody: A Mighty Fortress is our God

Written by: Laurel Presbyterian Church

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

Julie Messick

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*OUR RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn No. 606

RECEIVING LOVE TO BE LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

¹ Laurel Presbyterian Church, March 2026. Stanzas 1-4 (Stanza 1 written by the Session, Stanzas 2-4 written by the Lentening in Love participants. Melody, Luther, Martin. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." In *Glory to God: A Presbyterian Hymnal*, edited by Mary Louise Bringle, et al., 275. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 201 in the Appendix

Leader: We pray that we would take to heart that you are present in the world in three distinct and powerful ways to meet us where we are. May we never ignore or dishonor the diversity of your love that is the ground of our own.

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 pray that we might continue to encourage and call forth the wonder of speaking Laurel Love and growing deeper into your image as a beloved community of faith.

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 discomfort.

Silence.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We pray that we might be surprised by “joy” even when we know 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 pray for all those who are recovering from surgeries, addressing harsh realities, enduring medical challenges, gripping grief, isolation, uncertainty, unforgiving timelines, sleep deprivation, addiction, housing and food deserts, lack of resources for basic needs, and all the caregivers. We pray for 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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

No. 12

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

*POSTLUDE

James Sudbury

*RECESSION AND GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

***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 Julie Messick for serving as our liturgist this week.

Gratitude to our Hymn Writers: A big shout out to the Session who wrote our first stanza at our retreat and to the Lenting in Love participants who wrote the remaining 3. A special acknowledgement to Thomas Miller and Carolyn Stinger for playing the melody on the piano.

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, Beverley Shepherd 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. Dr. Ann D. Cherry, Minister

James A. Sudbury, Director of Music

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Where Love Is Known

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laurelpres.com

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