



Laurel Presbyterian Church
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Welcomes You!
6th Sunday After Pentecost

July 5, 2026, 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

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|----------------------|----------------------------|
| PRELUDE | James Sudbury |
| RINGING OF THE HOUR | Janice Berger |
| WELCOME BELOVED ONES | The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry |
| MINUTE FOR MISSION | Gladys Chamberlayne |

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP | James Sudbury |
| *CALL TO WORSHIP | Gladys Chamberlayne |

Leader: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

People: Your glory is sung by all of your creation!

Leader: When we look to the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, we wonder—

People: Who are we that you care for us and for this world?

Leader: You are the God of life, calling us beloved, and gracing us to be love in this world.

People: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

*HYMN

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

No. 81

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unwavering God, whose mercy is bottomless and whose wisdom timeless, hear our prayers today, as we bring our lives before you. We come as a people who are trying to live out the Christian message that all of us are welcomed at the table and beheld in your heart. Yet, it is so countercultural. Many of us worry that we are not Christian “unless” we act as kingdom bouncers. But in Jesus, you came to include, welcome and carry our burdens. Sometimes we get confused about what it means to bear the Christ name. Sometimes we want to advise you on knowing the difference between the wheat and the chaff, sometimes we can’t get past our own past and dwell there as if you hadn’t redeemed it, or each other’s. Have mercy on us when we confuse being a good American with being a good Christian. Forgive our conflation. Retrieve us from idol worship and return us to you. And give us your Spirit to see you literally in the face of all people, including when we peer in the mirror. For all these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who is, and was, and always will be, our Christ, our Great Host of the Big Table.

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 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

Exodus 20:3-5 (CEV)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

MUSICAL DEVOTION

“Think of Me and Remember”

Laurel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 10: 40-42 (CEV)

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30 (NET, CEV, NRSVue)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"The July 4th Hangover"

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

Seek Ye First

No. 175

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

Gladys Chamberlayne

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.**

*OUR RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn No. 606

SATURATED IN LOVE

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Rev. Dr. 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, in whom we trust with our very lives, 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: Unwavering God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us . . . For we pray all of these things in the name of the Great Host of the Table:

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

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

Open My Eyes of My Heart

No. 452

*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 Gladys Chamberlayne 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, Beverley Shepherd and Carolyn for our printing, Brenda MacRae, our website master, and Wayne Alvis, Tod Balsbaugh, Marshall Chamberlayne, Pete MacRae, Glenda Miller and Fran Tredway 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.**Exodus 20:3-5, *Contemporary English Version***

Do not worship any god except me.

Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth. Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the LORD your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations.

Matthew 10:40-42, *Contemporary English Version*

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me also welcomes the one who sent me. Anyone who welcomes a prophet, just because that person is a prophet, will be given the same reward as a prophet. Anyone who welcomes a good person, just because that person is good, will be given the same reward as a good person. And anyone who gives one of my most humble followers a cup of cool water, just because that person is my follower, will be rewarded.

Matthew 11: 16-19, *New English Translation*

"To what should I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces who call out to one another,

'We played the flute for you, yet you did not dance;
we wailed in mourning, yet you did not weep.'For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of *Humanity* came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

Matthew 11: 25-27, Contemporary English Version

At that moment Jesus said:

My Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I am grateful that you hid all this from wise and educated people and showed it to ordinary people. Yes, Father, this is what pleased you.

My Father has given me everything, and *the Father* is the only one who knows the Son. The only one who truly knows the Father is the Son. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father, so they can know *the Father* too.

Matthew 11: 28-30, New Revised Standard Version, updated edition

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Laurel Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry, Minister

James A. Sudbury, Director of Music

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Where Love Is Known

laurelpres.com

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