



Laurel Presbyterian Church
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Welcomes You!

11th Sunday After Pentecost

August 9, 2026, 10:00 AM

Where Love is Known

PRELUDE

James Sudbury

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Janice Berger

WELCOME BELOVED ONES

Carol Cummins

GATHERING AROUND LOVE

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

James Sudbury

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Cummins

Leader: God speaks peace to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

People: **Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God.**

Leader: Where God dwells, steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

People: **Faithfulness springs up from the ground and righteousness looks down from the sky. God gives what is good and we respond with abundant praise!**

*HYMN

Standing on the Promises

No. 838

RECEIVING LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Dan Wiard

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us to step out in faith, trusting in you for all things. We respond to your command but then sink in doubt and fear. We hide from the challenges of bold

discipleship. We are not able to fulfill your commandments, for our purposes are never in full accord with yours. Forgive us, we pray, when we confess with our lips but do not believe in our hearts. Help us to practice our faith in all circumstances. Lift us out of sin into the arms of your mercy. Though we are distracted by noise all around, allow us to hear your voice even when it is the sound of sheer silence . . . [a time of silence]. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Leader: Jesus is Lord! God raised him from the dead and we are saved through him.

People: **This is the good news we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! This is good news to share with all 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

Dr. Dan Wiard

SCRIPTURE

Romans 10: 5-15 (CEB)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MUSICAL DEVOTION

James Sudbury

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:22-33 (CEB)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Distracted by the Waves"

Dr. Dan Wiard

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*HYMN

To God Be the Glory

No. 634

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

Carol Cummins

**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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Dan Wiard

Leader: God of power and love, you are with us in every circumstance of this life. We thank you for your steadfast faithfulness. We thank you for the gift of your peace, which comes to us even in times of chaos and fear, trouble and doubt. We thank you for your powerful arms of mercy that grasp us when we are sinking; for your powerful Word that coaxes us even when we are hiding and afraid.

People: **We put our trust in you, for you alone can save us.**

Silence

Leader: We ask for your power and love to overwhelm the chaos of the nations. In every place of war, send your encompassing shalom to restore and repair all that is torn and broken. We pray that violent and hostile struggles will be defeated by good. Give us faith and courage to follow Christ so closely that divisions are dismantled, reconciliation is accomplished, and love casts out all fear.

People: **We put our trust in you, for you alone can save us.**

Silence

Leader: Increase mutual understanding and a sense of unity in our community, in this congregation, in the church around the world. In our personal relationships, bring healing where there is estrangement and hurt. In our relationship to your creation, give us creativity and perseverance as we work to be faithful, tender stewards of all that you have so wondrously made.

People: **We put our trust in you, for you alone can save us.**

Silence

Leader: We entrust to your providence and care all who suffer; all who are hiding from you, from others, or even from themselves because of fear or feelings of unworthiness. To one struggling with doubt, increase faith. To one enduring persecution or prejudice, bring freedom. For those caught in the grip of anxiety and uncertainty, grant the calm rest that your peace alone gives. And for all who face illness, pain, or even death, we pray for restoration and wholeness to fill them - in heart, mind, and body.

People: **We put our trust in you, for you alone can save us.**

Silence

Leader: You alone can save us, almighty God; hear our cries to you, we pray. Gather us up and set us in safety, and we will praise your name. We ask all things in the name of Jesus Christ, who truly is your Son, who taught us to pray, saying,

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>Just a Closer Walk with Thee</i>	No. 835
*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING		Dr. Dan Wiard
*POSTLUDE		James Sudbury
*RECESSION AND GREETING		Dr. Dan Wiard

***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.**

A Hearty Laurel Welcome to Dr. Dan Wiard: Dan may be new to our Presbytery, but he is not new to the church. He is an accomplished nationally known educator and will be with us today as he was last Sunday while Ann is on vacation. Ann will be back next Sunday. Dan brings a wealth of experience to the church. He is a retired Certified Christian Educator with forty-two years of ministry. Dan has served congregations in VA, PA, DE, SC, and NC. He also served on presbytery staff in PA. He has an earned doctorate in Educational Ministries (D.Ed. Min) from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA; a Master of Arts in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Dan was a member of the Association of Partners in Christian Education and has been an APCE presenter, workshop leader, and regional president. Dan is an avid cyclist and enjoys pickleball and photography.

Gratitude to our Liturgist: Thank you to Carol Cummens for serving as our liturgist today.

Gratitude for the Steady Presence of Laurel Love: Thank you to Mary Searce 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 Tod Balsbuagh, Marshall Chamberlayne, Glenda Miller, Billy Shepherd, 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.

Romans 10: 5-15, *Common English Bible*

Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law: *The person who does these things will live by them.* But the righteousness that comes from faith talks like this: *Don't say in your heart, "Who will go up into heaven?"* (that is, to bring Christ down) or *"Who will go down into the region below?"* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* (that is, the message of faith that we preach). Because if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won't be put to shame.* There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. *All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.*

So how can they call on someone they don't have faith in? And how can they have faith in someone they haven't heard of? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, *How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.*

Matthew 14:22-33, *Common English Bible*

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself

to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

Laurel Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Ann D. Cherry, Minister

James A. Sudbury, Director of Music

You can contact Ann Cherry at (804) 873-1990 or at laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com
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Growing Deeper Together

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