



May 14, 2023

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our Mission
Proclaiming God's Word
Growing in faith and understanding
Welcoming all
Extending comfort and grace
Working for justice and peace
Nurturing creation
Being generous stewards of God's gifts

Pastor – Rev. Sarah Wiles
Director of Music – Dr. Larry Wyatt
Organist/Pianist – Amanda Raymond
Director of Children/Youth Ministries – Susan Hunter
Coordinator of Church Life – Sarah Windes
Office Manager – Rhonda Waller
Parish Associate – Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter
Campus Minister, UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech – Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter
Mission Partner in Malawi – Dr. Arie Glas
Mission Partners in the Philippines – Cobbie Palm & Dessa Quesada-Palm
Mission Partners in Guatemala – Betsey & Eric Moe

Service is also livestreamed and is available at www.blacksburgpres.org.

If you are new to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and would like more information or to join our email list, please contact the church office at 540-552-2504 or email bpc@blacksburgpres.org.

❖ *Please rise in body or in spirit. We invite you to join in with the words in **bold**.*

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY
MAY 14, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: "To resist now means we will have to decide on rest as a reimagined way of life."

— Tricia Hersey

Prelude: "Little Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 553"

J.S. Bach

Dwight Bigler, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "Christ Is Alive!"

TRURO

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

❖ **Call to Worship**

Natasha Lowe

One day,
one day set aside
for rest, for pleasure,
for delight, for gratitude,

one day set aside
for joy,
one day to simply be,

one day not to value our lives
by what we do,
by how much we do,
by how well we do,
but to simply be,

one day not to plan and scope and scrape
but to simply delight,

one day not to evaluate and regret and rue
but to simply enjoy

one day to step into the land of Sabbath
where God has called us
to simply be.

Come, let us worship.

❖ **Hymn 401:** "Here in This Place"

GATHER US IN

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Continued . . .

We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

❖Prayer of Approach

Judy Davis

O God who holds me close,
my heart has no lofty ambitions,
my eyes don't look too high.
I am not concerned with great affairs
or marvels beyond my scope.

It's enough for me to keep my soul tranquil
and quiet like a child in its mother's arms;
my soul is as content as a nursing child.
May it be so.
Amen.

Call to Confession

Melinda Winslow

Prayer of Confession

Source of Life, you gave birth to us,
and we are your children.
You give us our moments, our days, our hours,
you give us work to do and ways to serve,
and you tell us to rest.

It's that last part that's hard for us.
We forget that you are God and we are not.
We think we are indispensable,
that the world simply cannot get along without us.
We don't consider the ways our frantic pace
of life, of work, of consumption,
forces others to labor beyond the breaking point.

We are tired.
Forgive us.
Call us back to rest.
Grant rest to this whole weary world.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear and believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

❖ Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(Worshippers may exchange signs of God's peace, and children may come forward for a time of sharing faith together.)

❖ HEARING THE WORD ❖

Sharing Faith with Children

Angela Anderson

(Children in 1st grade age and up are invited to remain in the sanctuary. Children in kindergarten or younger may stay in the sanctuary or go downstairs to God's Garden or the nursery for nurturing and care. Please complete a sign-in sticker for each child.)

Celebrating High School Graduates

Susan Hunter

Prayer for Illumination

Mary Ann Bowling

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Common English Bible

12 Keep the Sabbath day and treat it as holy, exactly as the Lord your God commanded: 13 Six days you may work and do all your tasks, 14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Don't do any work on it— not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your oxen or donkeys or any of your animals, or the immigrant who is living among you— so that your male and female servants can rest just like you. 15 Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, but the Lord your God brought you out of there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. That's why the Lord your God commands you to keep the Sabbath day.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Take a Day Off

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ Hymn 183: "Come to Me, O Weary Traveler"

AUSTIN

**"Come to me, O weary traveler;
come to me with your distress;
come to me, you heavy burdened;
come to me and find your rest."**

**"Do not fear, my yoke is easy;
do not fear, my burden's light;
do not fear the path before you;
do not run from me in fright."**

**"Take my yoke and leave your troubles;
take my yoke and come with me.
Take my yoke, I am beside you;
take and learn humility."**

**"Rest in me, O weary traveler;
rest in me and do not fear.
Rest in me, my heart is gentle;
rest and cast away your care."**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Janet Rakes, et al.

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;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Minute for Mission

Beth Mattson

Call to Offering

Offertory: "Here am I; Send Me"

Diane Tuiofu

The love of God has followed me
All of my days.
There is no greater happiness
Than walking in His ways.
I've known the joy of serving,
The peace that speaks within
The sweetness of repentance
Stealing sorrow from my sin.
For this, I know God lives.

Kathy Strong, soprano

But a world without faith
Is a world in chains.
As the darkness deepens,
How can hope remain?
Who will bring the light,
The truth that maketh free?
Who'll reflect the love
The Savior guaranteed?
Lord, here am I, I will go.
Here am I, send me. --Toni Thomas

❖ **Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all creatures here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ **Hymn 541:** "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

RANDOLPH

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

❖ **Charge and Benediction**

Keep your eyes wide open,
your hands willing,
your hearts generous,
your ears attentive,
your senses awake,
your feet light,
your hope alive,
and your faith on fire.

Let us not grow weary.

Continued . . .

Go and shine wherever you may be.
Go and embrace with tenderness all of life,
with its sorrow and joys.

Let us not grow weary.

Go and know what divinity expects
and what your siblings seek.
May the creative force bless you.
May the divine solidarity sustain you.
And may you be encouraged and enveloped by
the tender breath that brings freedom.

Amen.

Postlude: "Prelude in C Major, BWV 846"

J.S. Bach



We thank the BPC Presbyterian Women for leading worship today. We welcome Dwight Bigler as the accompanist. Thank you and best wishes to our choral scholars, Kathy Strong and Camry Sidick, upon their graduation. Citations: Call to Worship adapted from *From Glory into Glory*. Prayer of Approach from Psalm 131:1-2. Prayer of Dedication by PC(USA) Presbyterian Women. Charge and Benediction adapted by PC(USA) Presbyterian Women from *Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World*. Cover art by Jonathan Soren Davidson for [Disabled and Here](#).

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

This is a space for everyone. No matter who you are, no matter what your story is, no matter what--you are welcome here. May this be a time where your breathing slows, your heart opens, and you connect with the Holy One. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to explore some of what happens in the life and ministry of this community.

The flowers for the sanctuary today were provided by BPC Presbyterian Women to the glory of God.

Serving: **Church Opener:** Ben Corl

Ushers: Sarah Woolsey, Marti Snyder, Judy Pospichal, Lindsay Call

After Worship: Birthday cupcakes provided by BPC Presbyterian Women

Nursery and God's Garden Sign-in Stickers (one per child): Complete information about each child and parent(s) on the sign-in sticker.

Headsets for the hard of hearing are available. Speak to an usher to use them for the worship service.

Text or QR Code to Give: To give by text, send keyword **bpcva** and an amount to phone number **779777** (e.g., bpcva 20). If it is your first time, there will be a brief registration process. To give via QR code, use the camera app on your phone and follow instructions. Thank you for your support of BPC's ministry.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



The BPC Presbyterian Women Gifts of Women Sunday: Celebrating PW's history of giving, a Birthday Offering is received annually during this service which funds mission projects impacting people in the U. S. and around the world. BPC's support of the offering in 2023 will ensure that grants are provided for a group home supporting young mothers in Tallahassee, FL, and the construction of a building to house kindergarten in Ethiopia. A donation can be made two ways: drop a check in the offering plate (envelopes are in the pews) made out to BPC with "Birthday Offering" in the memo line or go to BPC's Give page, and choose "PW Birthday Offering" from the dropdown menu: blacksburgpres.org/give.

From PW members of Hildegard, Faith, and Lydia Circles:



Jan McGilliard: I enjoy participating in the Hildegard Circle which features fellowship around a shared potluck meal, Bible study, and frank discussions around issues of the day.



Peg Warren: I enjoy participating in Faith Circle because I can spend time with the other women in the group. We always have some sort of interesting, guided discussion, but the best part of the evening is catching up, sharing joys and learning from others. Joining Faith Circle helped me meet people and get more involved in the church community.



Sandy Power: Hearing another is an act of healing. Every month as I participate in Lydia Circle meetings, I witness wise, powerful women hear and support each other. The sharing of experiences and lessons learned is a precious gift that makes us all stronger and binds us as a community. I am grateful to have the opportunity to study and grow with this wonderful group.

If you are interested in joining a Presbyterian Women circle, please contact Janet Rakes at jimjanetrakes@comcast.net.

Congratulations to BPC's high school class of 2023:

Elise Bailey
Jackson Lawrence
McKenna Slocum
Sam Woolsey

Wyatt Eschenmann
Rylan Pospichal
Ginsey Thompson

Kyle Knobl
Lily Rascher
Griffin Warren

THIS WEEK

FH-Fellowship Hall, **HCR**-Hatcher Conference Room,
WM-Westminster, **SNC**-Sanctuary, **GS**-Gathering Space

Sun., May 14: Gifts of Women Sunday & Birthday Offering

- 2:00-2:30 pm: BPC Confirmation Youth – Sharing Their Gifts. Come to the Showalter dining room at Warm Hearth (1060 Showalter Dr.) today to hear the following BPC confirmation youth sharing their gifts: Charlie Wyatt on cello, Heidi Swartzwelder on piano, and Sophia Warren with spoken word
- 7:00-8:00: Book Study, *The Different Drum* by M. Scott Peck, with Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu) and Russell Gregory, HCR

Tues., May 16:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars with Pastor Sarah, Zoom
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

Wed., May 17:

- 7:00 pm: Choir rehearsal, choir room

Thur., May 18:

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries meeting, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Contact Melanie and Scott melscofam@gmail.com for details.

Sun., May 21: Cents-Ability Offering

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- Congregational Meeting – election of 2023 nominating committee
- After worship: Welcoming All – What the Bible Says About Gender, FH. This gathering will address biblical passages that relate to how Christians can understand and celebrate diverse gender identities, particularly including our transgender and non-binary siblings. You do not need to have attended the first session to attend this one. There will be light refreshments.
- 7:00 pm: Session meeting, HCR
- *Cancelled due to session meeting* - 7:00-8:00: Book Study, *The Different Drum* by M. Scott Peck, with Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu) and Russell Gregory, HCR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., May 22: 1:00-3:00 pm: Knitwits, WM

Tues., May 23: 5:30: Creation Care Team meeting, HCR

Wed., May 24: 7:30 pm: Virtual Journey to Guatemala with CEDEPCA and Rev. Betsey Moe, our mission co-worker, discussing their work with adolescents to counter gender-based and domestic violence. See upcoming *MidWeek Updates* for details and how to register for this event.

Thur., May 25: 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle meeting, TBA

Sun., May 28: Pentecost Sunday

Mon., May 29: Memorial Day – church office is closed

Sun., June 11-Wed., June 14: Vacation Bible School, 5:30-8:00 pm. Contact Susan Hunter at susahh@blacksburgpres.org for information.
