



July 16, 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

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
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 16, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: Jesus said, "Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice." —Matthew 9:13a

Prelude: "Cantabile"

Raymond H. Haan

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Liturgical Movement: "Testify to Love"

sung by Wynonna Judd

Robin Bosch

❖ **Call to Worship**

Sarah Windes

The Holy Spirit has given us life
and pours on us the power to become new people!
**The winds of the Spirit have given us breath
and the fire of the Spirit has enkindled in us
a love for God and each other.**

Come here in faithfulness,
and be ready for the surprises that God's Spirit brings.
**We open our lives to the presence of God
and trust God's promise to us
that we can live new lives of freedom and grace.**

❖ **Hymn 619:** "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

LAUDA ANIMA

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Maker all your days!**

**Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!**

**Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All within me, praise God's name!**

**Angels, teach us adoration;
you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

❖ Psalm of the Day

I love the Lord who listens to me;
my prayers are heard in heaven.

**Death and hell laid hold of me;
I was desperate, distressed, and in anguish.**

Then I called on the name of God:
Save me! Save my life!

God is gracious and merciful;

**I was rescued from all that oppressed me.
My life was delivered from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.**

What shall I offer to God in return
for all the grace I received?

**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on God by name.**

I will offer my gift of gratitude
in the place beloved by God.

**I will make my vows to my Maker
in the presence of all God's people.**

Call to Confession: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Hymn 475 (v. 3)

**O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

Prayer of Confession

(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

Larry Bechtel

(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.)

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit,
You're present all the time.
**Awaken us to that reality,
so that we may
see you,
feel you,
know you,
follow you.
Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Genesis 22:1-14, Common English Bible

1 After these events, God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" Abraham answered, "I'm here." 2 God said, "Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you." 3 Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him. 4 On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. 5 Abraham said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you." 6 Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. 7 Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father?" Abraham said, "I'm here, my son." Isaac said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?" 8 Abraham said, "The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son." The two of them walked on together. 9 They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. 11 But the Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, "Abraham? Abraham?" Abraham said, "I'm here." 12 The messenger said, "Don't stretch out your hand against the young man, and don't do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn't hold back your son, your only son, from me." 13 Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son. 14 Abraham named that place "the Lord sees." That is the reason people today say, "On this mountain the Lord is seen."

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: Gracious Mercy

Rev. Sarah Wiles

Celebration of Confirmation

❖ **Hymn 488:** "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

WATERLIFE

**"I was there to hear your borne cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."**

**"When you heard the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."**

**"In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."**

**"I was there to hear your borne cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."**

Sacrament of Baptism and Profession of Faith

Jaya Ericksen
Charlie Wyatt

Susan Hunter

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.	Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.
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Call to Offering

Offertory: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Cristina Hendricks, soprano

John Rutter

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small.
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings.
The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.
The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden – He made them every one.
He gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well.

--Mrs. C.F. Alexander

❖Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Hymn 609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

❖Prayer of Dedication

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖Hymn 39: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
(Refrain)**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

❖Benediction

Postlude: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

set by Melody Bober



We thank Robin Bosch, BPC member and mother of Jaya Ericksen, for her gift of liturgical movement. We also would like to thank Cristina Hendricks, granddaughter of Bill and Mary Lee Hendricks, for the gift of her voice. Citations: Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession adapted from *Touch Holiness*. Psalm of the Day adaptation from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*.

Art: Rafael Lopez, children's mural for Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, 2012, <https://rafaellopez.com/>

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.

Serving: Church Opener: Tom Pospichal

Ushers: Marcia and Jeff Parks, and Tom and Judy Pospichal

Elder Serving Refreshments: Jim and Janet Rakes

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.

You can send prayer requests for Prayers of the People in Sunday worship and/or to be added to the *MidWeek Update* and website prayer list to Rhonda at rhonda@blacksburgpres.org.

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



Thank-You Celebration for Larry and Amanda, July 23, during and following worship: Please join us in thanking them for their ministry among us over the last two and a half years. We are so grateful for Amanda Raymond's time as organist/pianist, and Larry Wyatt's tenure with us as director of music. The two of them began during the middle of the pandemic and did an excellent job adapting to those difficult days and then rebuilding a strong in-person music program as we began to worship together. Amanda, with her husband Harrison, will be moving at the end of this month to Ann Arbor, MI, for her to pursue doctoral studies. We will miss her! Thankfully, Larry and Susan will continue to be a part of our congregation. I

hope you can join us in thanking them for their ministry among us over the last two and a half years.



Interfaith Reading Group, July 23, 4:00 pm, BPC Fellowship Hall: Join with the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, and multiple Christian congregations in a book study of *Dangerous Religious Ideas* by Rachel Mikva. Our next meeting is Sunday, July 23, at 4pm in BPC's Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the introduction and chapters 1-4. Everyone is welcome--even if you missed the first gathering.

Going forward, the group will meet every other Sunday at 4pm until we complete the book. Locations will rotate. Contact Pastor Sarah with any questions.

Summer Moments of Grace: Celebrate something you have done, people you have seen, a place you have been or a moment of rest or beauty this summer by decorating a small paper t-shirt to commemorate it. Check out the BPC Community Bulletin Board as you enter the Gathering Space from the stairway. Stickers, markers and other supplies are provided for decorating your t-shirt (several colors to choose from). Be sure and put your name on it before you hang it on the line!



THIS WEEK

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

Sun., July 16:

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR

Tues., July 18:

- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

Thur., July 20:

- 4:00-5:00 pm: Community Ministries, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00 pm: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to show up at the meeting time or contact the church office.
- 7:00-8:00: Alma Ensemble with flute, clarinet, and piano in a program inspired by poetry and nature, BPC sanctuary (free admission). Part of the Thursday Night Indoor Concert series, 2023 Summer Arts Festival. (More information about these performances and other events can be found here: performingarts.vt.edu.)

Sun., July 23:

- 9:00 am: Savoring Sacred Music Class: A Very Big Picture – History of Hymns, led by Dr. Larry Wyatt, WM. *Last class of this series.*
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship-12:15 pm: Thank-You Gathering for Larry and Amanda, FH. See announcements for details.
- 4:00: Interfaith Reading Group, second meeting, FH. See announcements for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., July 24:

- 11:30-1:30 pm: Lydia Circle Gathering. Bring your lunch and let's visit together. Visitors are welcome. Shelter 2 at Blacksburg Municipal Park (Caboose Park)
- 1:00-3:00: Knitwits, WM

Tues., July 25:

- 7:00 pm: University Ministries meeting, HCR

Thur., July 27:

- 7:00-8:00 pm: Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* conducted by Dr. Larry Wyatt. BPC Sanctuary (free admission). Part of the Thursday Night Indoor Concert series, 2023 Summer Arts Festival.

Fri., July 28:

- 4:00 pm: Memorial Service for Larry Wright. A reception will follow. SNC & FH

Mon., July 31:

- 5:30-8:00 pm: Hildegard Circle Potluck Social, Martha Dillard's home.