



July 23, 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 & Organist – Alice Brooks Sanders
Director of Music – Dr. Larry Wyatt
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
Virginia Tech Campus Outreach Minister – Rev. Kathy Carpenter
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
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 23, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: "I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice." — Abraham Lincoln

Prelude: "Gammal fåbodpsalm" (Old Cattle Pasture Hymn)

Oskar Lindberg

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "Bless the Lord"

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)

(Cantor sings once, joined by the congregation the next two times.)

**Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

❖ **Call to Worship**

Marcia Parks

To worship is to listen for the ancient song of creation
and to recognize within that music our individual tunes.

**To worship is to share the melodies
and dissonances of our human condition.**

Our voices vary:

**some warble, some bellow,
but the song is universal.**

It is our ode to Love, and to the Love within us.

Let us join hearts and voices and worship God.

❖ **Hymn 67: "My Song Forever Shall Record"**

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**My song forever shall record
the tender mercies of the Lord;
your faithful love will I proclaim,
and every age shall know your name.**

**I sing of mercies that endure,
forever firm, forever sure,
a strong support that never dies,
established changeless in the skies.**

**Almighty God, your lofty throne
has justice for its cornerstone,
and shining bright before your face
are truth and love and boundless grace.**

**With blessing is the nation crowned
whose people know the joyful sound;
they in the light, O Lord, shall live,
the light your face and favor give.**

❖ **Psalm of the Day**

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and all that is within me bless God's holy name.

God forgives the wrong you have done,
 heals you of your diseases,
 redeems your life from the grave,
 crowns you with goodness and mercy,
 keeps you with care as long as you live
 so your life is renewed like the eagle's.

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and all that is within me bless God's holy name.

**God brings justice to those who are oppressed,
 as shown to Moses and his people.
 God is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, constant in love.
 God will not always be the accuser
 or keep anger hot forever.
 God does not deal with us as we deserve,
 nor punish according to our sins.**

God's love for all faithful people
 is as high and vast as the heavens.
 As far as the east lies from the west,
 God removes the wrong we have done.

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and all that is within me bless God's holy name.

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

Rev. Sarah Wiles

(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 18-19, selected verses

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

Sermon: A Minority Report of Grace

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 722:** "Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"

CANONBURY

Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.

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.

Call to Offering

Offertory: "Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler"
Let us cheer the weary traveler
along the heavenly way.

set by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

❖Doxology

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!

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Hymn 609

❖Prayer of Dedication

Gratitude for the Ministries of Larry Wyatt and Amanda Raymond

❖BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖Hymn: "May God Support You All Your Days"

May God support you all your days,
in times of gladness and in need.
May God remember you with grace
and bless your every word and deed.

May God confirm your heart's desire
and bring to fullness all your plans.
May God's sustaining love inspire
your shouts of praise and joyful dance.

May God be near you when you pray,
to help you with a gentle hand.
May God forever guide your way
and lead you to the promised land.

O WALY WALY

❖Benediction

Postlude: "Little Fugue in D Major"

G.F. Handel



Today's prelude, by Swedish composer, teacher, and organist Oskar Lindberg (1887-1955), is based on a folk tune from the region of Dalarna. The "fäbodpsalms" were traditionally sung by women tending sheep and cows in their mountainous summer pastures. The composer of today's offertory, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, (1875-1912) was a British composer of both European and African descent, often compared to composer Gustav Mahler. He enjoyed success both in England and America. "Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler" comes from his collection *24 Negro Melodies*, which contains both African and African-American tunes.

Citations: Call to Worship from *Touch Holiness*. Psalm of the Day from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*.
Cover: Photo by [Diogo Nunes](#) on Unsplash.

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: Sandy Power, Greg and Anne Campbell, and Bill Hendricks

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 77977 (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 today!

Join us in the Gathering Space after worship today to thank them for their ministry among us over the last two and a half years.



Interfaith Reading Group

in partnership with Blacksburg churches, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, and the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center

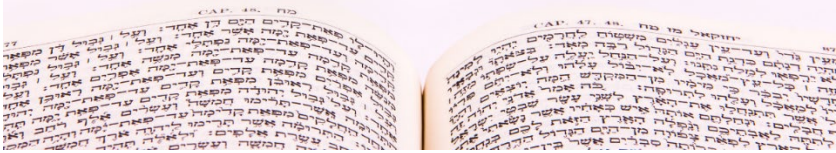
We are reading **Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam** by Rachel Mikva

Next meeting: July 23 | 4pm | Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall 701 Church St., SE

The group will meet every other Sunday at 4:00 in rotating locations.

Interfaith Reading Group, today at 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.



Thank You!

The Presbyterian Women kids' drive for single-bedding sets for low-income families was a great success!

With the generous support of the congregation, Faith Circle delivered 24 bed-in-a-bag sets plus \$100 cash to Sleep in Heavenly Peace-NRV. Frames for the beds are being put together by the organization's volunteers with everyone working together toward the goal of "no child sleeps on the floor in our town!" Helping women and children is a big part of the mission of PW. Thank you, BPC, for your continuing participation in the mission work of PW.

THIS WEEK

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

Sun., July 23:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: Thank-You Celebration for Larry and Amanda, GS.
- 4:00 pm: Interfaith Reading Group, second meeting, FH. See announcements for details.

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:

- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH
- 7:00: University Ministries meeting, HCR

Thur., July 27:

- 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: Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* conducted by Dr. Larry Wyatt, BPC Sanctuary (free admission). Thursday Night Indoor Concert series, 2023 Summer Arts Festival. (More information about this performance and other events can be found here: performingarts.vt.edu.)

Fri., July 28:

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

Sun., July 30:

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., July 31:

- 5:30-8:00 pm: Hildegard Circle Potluck Social, Martha Dillard's home (270 Ross Lane, New Castle, VA)

Fri., Aug. 4:

- 5:00 pm: First Fridays Peace Vigil, downtown post office, 118 N. Main St., Bburg

Thur., Aug. 10:

- 3:30-4:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom

Thur., Aug. 17:

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries meeting, Zoom