



August 20, 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
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 20, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: "Yet as I read the birth stories about Jesus I cannot help but conclude that though the world may be tilted toward the rich and powerful, God is tilted toward the underdog." — Philip Yancey

Prelude: Improvisation on "Together We Serve"

ST. ANSELMO
Alice Brooks Sanders

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music (hymn 389): "Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord"
(Cantor sings once, joined by congregation the second time.)

HAL'LUHU

Larry Wyatt, cantor

❖ Call to Worship

Melinda Winslow

We gather in the presence of a God who has made promises:

**that the broken can be mended,
and the grieving can be comforted,
and the hopeless will find hope.**

Together, we lean into these promises,
sometimes with strong faith,
sometimes with big questions,
but always with hope.

**For we've caught a glimpse
of another way.**

❖ Hymn 65: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.**

❖ Psalm of the Day

Praise God! Praise God, O my soul!
As long as I live I'll sing praise to my Maker.

**Do not put your trust in human leaders,
in mortals who cannot save you.
When they stop breathing, they return to the earth;
on that day their plans perish.**

Those whose joy knows no bounds
find their help and their hope in God.
God made the heavens and the earth,
the seas and all they contain.

**God keeps faith, deals out justice,
and gives food to the hungry.
God sets the prisoners free
and opens the eyes that are blind.**

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

Ed Spencer

(*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.**

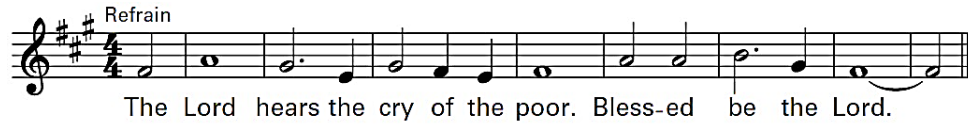
For the Wisdom of God in scripture,
 for the Wisdom of God among us,
 for the Wisdom of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Sermon: God Bless This Mess

Rev. Sarah Wiles

Hymn: "The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor"
 (Please sing as directed by the cantor.)

THE CRY OF THE POOR



I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise ever in my mouth.

Let my soul glory in the Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor. [Refrain]

Let the lowly hear and be glad, the Lord listens to their pleas;
 and to hearts broken, God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor. [Refrain]

Every spirit crushed, God will save; will be ransom for their lives,
 Will be safe shelter for their fears, and will hear the cry of the poor. [Refrain]

We proclaim your greatness, O God, your praise ever on our lips;
 Every face brightened in your light, for you hear the cry of the poor. [Refrain]

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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Call to Offering

Offertory: "Ancienne melodie de la synagogue"

Charles-Valentin Alkan

❖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 767: "Together We Serve"

SAN ANSELMO

Together we serve,
united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy,
extending God's love to the last and the least.

We seek to become
a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred,
the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home
to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace,
we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve
in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.

Congregational Meeting

Deacons Class of 2026

Suzanne Ducker

Linda Smith

Elders Class of 2026

Susan Bailey

Russell Gregory

Ed Spencer

Tom Tillar

Elder Class of 2024

Deb Call

❖Benediction

Postlude: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

set by Paul Manz



Citations: Call to Worship by Jenny McDevitt. Psalm adaptation from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, revised edition. Offertory: Charles-Valentin Alkan (1813-1888) was brought up in a religiously observant Jewish household in Paris. A child prodigy, he experienced early fame as a concert artist and composer. He counted Chopin as a close friend. Later in life, he spent considerable periods of time secluded from society, during which he studied the Bible and the Talmud, and translated the Old and New Testaments from their original languages into French. Alkan was the first composer known to incorporate Jewish themes or melodies into art music, as in today's offertory taken from his *31 Preludes for Harmonium or Piano*. Music: used with permission under One License #A-701634. All rights reserved. Photo from peakpx.com/521164/women-s-black-abaya-and-white-hijab, (License CC0 1.0 Universal)

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: Brent Opell

Ushers: Craig and Sarah Woolsey, and Tom and Judy Pospichal

Elder Serving Refreshments: Todd Lowe

The flowers for the sanctuary today are provided by Janet and Jim Rakes to the glory of God.

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 *Mid-Week* and website prayer list to 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

Parking Lot Changes: Paving and painting of the parking lot will be done this Monday and Tuesday, 08/21-22. The building will be accessible during business hours via Eakin St. Please note that the traffic flow in the parking lot lane closest to the playground will be reversed for the following Sunday, 08/27.



Welcome VT Students! Whether you just arrived to start your first year or are returning for your fifth or sixth year, the Presbyterian campus ministry UKirk would like to welcome you and feed you--body and soul. UKirk is a fully inclusive campus ministry where all are welcomed and affirmed. We invite students to join us for a picnic on Tuesday, August 22, 6-8pm at 305 Washington St. SW. Dinner will be provided.

Presbyterian Woman Bible Study Guides are available: Please see Janet Rakes after worship today or next Sunday to get one. Cost is \$10.00 each. For more info, contact Janet at jimjanetrakes@comcast.net.



Activities:

- 4:00 games and fellowship
- 5:00 picnic supper provided
- 5:45 group saunter
- 6:40 informal worship

Please email Melinda Winslow at mailto:mwins6@yahoo.com if you plan to be there.

To help with preparation, setup, and food, we invite you to sign up at the link below:
www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b4daae2baafc1-endofsummer#/

Remember to bring your own reusable utensils, cups, napkins, and dinnerware; a refillable water bottle; a chair if you'd prefer; and outdoor games, if you like.



THIS WEEK

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

Sun., Aug. 20: Cents-Ability Sunday

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
- 12:00-1:00 pm: Banner Team meeting, WM
- 4:00: Interfaith Reading Group, chapters 7-9 of *Dangerous Religious Ideas* by Rachel Mikva. Quaker Friends Meeting House (404 Mt. Tabor Rd)
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR

Mon. & Tues., Aug. 21-22: Parking lot is unavailable with paving and painting. Eakin St. door will be unlocked during business hours.

Wed., Aug. 23 – Mon., Sept. 4: Church office hours will be abbreviated and will vary while Rhonda is on vacation.

Tues., Aug. 22:

- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH
- 7:00 pm: Stewardship Team meeting, HCR

Wed., Aug. 23:

- 5:30 pm: Handbells rehearsal resumes, FH. If interested in the handbells or choir, please contact our music director at Alice Sanders at alice@blacksburgpres.org.
- 7:00: Choir rehearsal resumes, choir room

Thur., Aug. 24:

- 5:00-6:00 pm: Thursday Hangout Hour, Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to show up or contact Melanie or Scott Smith at melscofam@gmail.com.
- 7:30 pm: Faith Circle meeting, Peg Warren's home (1201 Highland Cr.)

Sat., Aug. 26:

- 4:00-6:30 pm: Dialogue on Race Summer Summit, Christiansburg Huckleberry Park, 300 Peppers Ferry Rd., NW. For more info: thecommunitygroup.org

Sun., Aug. 27:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
 - 4:00-7:00 pm: End-of-Summer Shindig, Nellie's Cave Park. More details to come.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Aug. 28:

- 1:00-3:00 pm: Knitwits, WM

Fri., Sept. 1:

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

Sun., Sept. 3:

- 9:00 am: Youth & Children Sunday School Teacher Orientation meeting, FH
- 4:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, location TBA

Mon., Sept. 4: Church office is closed, Labor Day

Tues., Sept. 6:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study resumes, Zoom. Contact Pastor Sarah for the link.

Sun., Sept. 10: Kick-Off Sunday!

- 9:00 am: Sunday School for children, youth, and adults begins, SNC
- 10:30: Worship Service. Season of Creation begins. More details to come.
- After worship: Season of Creation film – *Chasing Climate Zero* (NOVA-PBS), FH
- 5:30-7:30 pm: Youth Group Family Potluck Dinner and planning meeting, FH

Mon., Sept. 11:

- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle meeting, FH
- 6:00: Hildegard Circle meeting, TBA