



September 3, 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 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
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: "For me, forgiveness and compassion are always linked: how do we hold people accountable for wrongdoing and yet at the same time remain in touch with their humanity enough to believe in their capacity to be transformed?" --bell hooks

Prelude: "Appalachian Sunrise"

Joseph Martin

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "Morning Prayer"

Pyotr Tchaikovsky

❖ **Call to Worship**

It is a brand new day.

When the sun rises, it brings a clean slate and a second chance.

It is a brand new day.

When the birds sing, creation catches its breath and chaos recedes.

It is a brand new day.

When God speaks, our hearts leap and our demons slither away.

It is a brand new day.

When we worship, love is practiced and we are welcomed home.

Charles Goodsell

❖ **Hymn 664:** "Morning Has Broken"

BUNESSAN

Morning has broken

like the first morning;

blackbird has spoken

like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing

fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall

sunlit from heaven,

like the first dewfall

on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness

of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness

where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!

Mine is the morning,

born of the one light

Eden saw play!

Praise with elation;

praise every morning,

God's re-creation

of the new day!

❖ **Psalm of the Day**

Psalm 133

See how good, how pleasant it is

for kinfolk to live together as one!

**It is like precious oil on Aaron's head
running down on his beard,
running down to the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Mount Hermon,
falling on the hills of Zion.

**For that is where God bestows the blessing—
life that never ends.**

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

Ben Corl

(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 33:1-11, Common English Bible

1 Jacob looked up and saw Esau approaching with four hundred men. Jacob divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two women servants. 2 He put the servants and their children first, Leah and her children after them, and Rachel and Joseph last. 3 He himself went in front of them and bowed to the ground seven times as he was approaching his brother. 4 But Esau ran to meet him, threw his arms around his neck, kissed him, and they wept. 5 Esau looked up and saw the women and children and said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children that God generously gave your servant." 6 The women servants and their children came forward and bowed down. 7 Then Leah and her servants also came forward and bowed, and afterward Joseph and Rachel came forward and bowed.

8 Esau said, "What's the meaning of this entire group of animals that I met?" Jacob said, "To ask for my master's kindness." 9 Esau said, "I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what's yours." 10 Jacob said, "No, please, do me the kindness of accepting my gift. Seeing your face is like seeing God's face, since you've accepted me so warmly. 11 Take this present that I've brought because God has been generous to me, and I have everything I need." So Jacob persuaded him, and he took it.

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: Grace Abounds

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 435:** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"
IN BABILONE

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.**

Call to Offering

Offertory: "Reconciliation, Op. 17, No. 20"

Max Reger

❖ **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.**

OLD HUNDREDTH

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

Celebration of Communion

Rev. Sarah Wiles

(All are welcome at Christ's table. Use the center aisle to reach a station in the front of the sanctuary and return by the side aisle to your seat. Gluten-free bread is available at the center station in front. If you need to remain seated, the elements will be brought to you.)

❖ **Hymn 507 (vv. 1-3):** "Come to the Table of Grace"

TABLE OF GRACE

**Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.**

**Come to the table of peace.
Come to the table of peace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of peace.**

**Come to the table of love.
Come to the table of love.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of love.**

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer After Supper

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ Hymn 774: "There Is Now a New Creation"

STUTTGART

There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
peace and reconciliation
with the God of endless life.

Call the lost and found together;
tell the news to everyone:
now the past is gone forever
and a new life has begun.

Wrap the prodigal in welcome;
run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven;
let us now be reconciled.

Come and join the celebration;
come and join this happy feast;
Jesus makes an invitation
to the greatest and the least.

There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and adoration,
to the God of endless life!

❖ Benediction

Postlude: "Hornpipe"

Samuel Wesley



Today's offertory is the final piece from Max Reger's *Aus der Jugendzeit* (*From the Time of Youth*). This set of 20 short pieces with modest technical requirements reflects on experiences of childhood with such titles as "Anxious Questions" and "Catch Me" and includes a setting of "Silent Night." Reger (1873-1916) was a German composer, pianist, organist, conductor, and professor. He was briefly music director at the Leipzig University Church and taught at the Leipzig Conservatory.

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Citations: Call to Worship by Rev. Jenny McDevitt. Psalm of the Day from *The Inclusive Bible*. Art: *Hug* by [Mikuláš Galanda](#) (1930), public domain.

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:** Ben Corl

Ushers: Chris Lawrence, Heidi Swartzwelder, Reed or Ella Lawrence,
Marcia Parks

Serving Refreshments: Gabe Minnich

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



Kick Off the new Sunday school year, Sept. 10 at 9:00 a.m., in the sanctuary!

Children ages 3 and up, youth, and adults are invited to gather in the sanctuary before meeting teachers and heading to individual classes. Children under 3 are welcome in the nursery. Milestones will be recognized in worship at 10:30 a.m. for children and youth in kindergarten and grades 3, 6 and 9. Youth Group for grades 6-12 will begin with a potluck dinner with families at 5:30-7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share. A planning meeting will take place after dinner.

It's time for our annual donation for The Christmas Store!

Our goal is 1,200 cans of pork and beans. Monetary donations will be used to purchase in bulk from Kroger and any additional funds will fill other donation needs. You can contribute by check (memo: "Pork and Beans") or at blacksburgpres.org/give (select Christmas Store Pork and Beans from the drop down menu).



Flourishing for all

SPIRITUAL POSTURES FOR LIFE

Season of Creation 2023 | Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

The Season of Creation | Flourishing for All: Spiritual Postures for Life

The **Season of Creation** is an annual liturgical season (like Advent or Lent) in which the ecumenical family around the world unites in prayer and action to protect our common home. Our theme for the 2023 season (Sept. 10-24) is "**Flourishing for All: Spiritual Postures for Life.**" Each week, we will focus on a posture that will guide us in caring for creation.

Sept. 10: Hope, *Jeremiah 32*. After worship, screening of **Chasing Carbon Zero** (NOVA 2023), Lunch will be served.

Sept. 17: Simplicity, *1 Timothy 6: 6-10, 17-19*. After worship, **Creation Care Fair** with 8-10 centers for children and adults, providing hands-on activities and information about many topics of Creation Care. Snacks will be provided.

Sept. 24: Mindfulness, *Deuteronomy 30:15-25*.

Moments of Wonder or Awe

Throughout the Season, we will be encouraging you to send in photos of **Moments of Wonder or Awe**. We invite you to send no more than two photos to share on a slide show that we will be showing in the Gathering Space throughout the Season of Creation. Send your photo(s) to eday511@gmail.com any time between now and Sept. 18.

Congregational Hike

Come enjoy time in nature on our **Congregational Hike** on Sept. 23 at 9:30am. We will gather at the shelter by the Meadowbrook entrance of Heritage Park (2801 Meadowbrook Dr.). There will be two outings to choose from: a short nature walk and a longer hike. Some folks will also stay at the shelter and visit. Once everyone returns, we'll head over to Rising Silo (2351 Glade Rd.) at 11:30 for a drink or bite to eat.

Collection for New River Valley Reuse Center

We are also collecting a few items for the **New River Creative Reuse Center**, which will be featured at one of our booths at the Creation Care Fair on Sept. 17. Bring items that you would ordinarily put in the trash, and see how teachers and other art and activity leaders can put them to use. For a list of items we will collect that day, see the Newsletter, the Midweek email, or the label on the box in the office entry hallway. If you have items on the list that you would like to bring in advance, that box will be available until the day of the Fair.

THIS WEEK

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

Sun., Sept. 3: Communion Sunday

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC

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

Tues., Sept. 5:

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

Wed., Sept. 6:

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

Thur., Sept. 7:

- 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.

Fri., Sept. 8:

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

Sun., Sept. 10: Kickoff Sunday! Season of Creation Begins

- 9:00 am: Sunday School for children, youth, and adults begins, SNC
- 10:30: Worship Service. "Flourishing for All: The Spiritual Posture of Hope."
- After worship: Season of Creation film, Chasing Climate Zero (NOVA-PBS), (with lunch) FH
- 4:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, location TBA. Read through chapter 11
- 5:30-7:30 pm: Youth Group Family Potluck Dinner and planning meeting, FH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Sept. 11:

- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle meeting, FH
- 6:00 pm: Hildegard Circle meeting, Jan McGilliard's home

Tues., Sept. 12:

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

Thur., Sept. 14: 3:30-4:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom

Sun., Sept. 17: Season of Creation Week 2

- 10:30 am: Worship, "Flourishing for All: The Spiritual Posture of Simplicity."
- After worship: Creation Care Fair, FH
- 4:00 pm: Music for Mission Series begins with Geoffrey Herd, violin, and Anna Petrova, piano, music faculty at the University of Louisville. Concerts are free with an offering to support the Women's Resource Center.

Sat., Sept. 23: 9:30 am: BPC Hike at Heritage Park, 2801 Meadowbrook Dr. (park at Meadowbrook entrance). 11:30 am: Meet at Rising Silo, 2351 Glade Rd.

Sun., Sept. 24: Season of Creation, Week 3

- 10:30 am: Worship, "Flourishing for All: The Spiritual Posture of Mindfulness."