

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
OCTOBER 15, 2023

We are a community that welcomes all.
We are committed to experiencing beautiful worship,
nurturing lifelong growth,
and pursuing justice and love in the world.



Blessed are the
peacemakers,
for they will
be called the
children of God.

MATTHEW 5:9

INTERNATIONAL MISSION MONTH

Guatemala

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

✦ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ✦

Thought for Meditation: "The soul is healed by being with children." – Fyodor Dostoevsky

Prelude: "Jesus Loves Me" (with "Clair de lune")

set by Fred Bock

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "The Peace of the Earth be with You"

Guatemala

Beth Mattson, liturgical dance

✦ **Call to Worship**

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

This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them."

So, let them come!

Little kids and big kids,

noisy, squirmy, curious kids,

hungry, tired, whiny kids,

persistent, insistent, courageous kids,

we need them all!

Jesus said, "God's kingdom is made up of people like these."

That includes children and all who have been dismissed, ignored, not counted

because they're too old or too weak,

because of the way they think or feel,

because they're too big or too small or too poor.

To be whole, **we need each other,**

no exceptions.

So, come! **Everyone!**

Come and worship!

✦ **Hymn 19:** "God of Great and God of Small"

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

God of great and God of small,

God of one and God of all,

God of weak and God of strong,

God to whom all things belong,

alleluia, alleluia,

praise be to your name.

God of land and sky and sea,

God of life and destiny,

God of never-ending power,

yet beside me every hour,

alleluia, alleluia,

praise be to your name.

God of silence, God of sound,

God by whom the lost are found,

God of day and darkest night,

God whose love turns wrong to right,

alleluia, alleluia,

praise be to your name.

God of heaven and God of earth,

God of death and God of birth,

God of now and days before,

God who reigns forevermore,

alleluia, alleluia,

praise be to your name.

❖Prayer of Approach

Jesus, we love you. When we look around, we see you everywhere:

**in hugs and cackles of laughter,
in dump trucks and big ships,
in buckeyes and acorns,
in our animal friends and people friends.**

When someone holds our hand,
and shows us the way,
and takes the time to listen,
we know we are loved.

We're here to learn to love each other the way you love us. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God you know me. You know that I can be loving and kind;
and you know that sometimes I get things wrong.
I'm sorry for the times I hurt other people, forget to listen to you
and don't take care of your world.

**May God forgive you, Jesus bless you,
and God's Spirit help you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**God you know us. You know that we can be loving and kind;
and you know that sometimes we get things wrong.
We're sorry for the times we hurt other people, forget to listen to you
and don't take care of your world.**

May God forgive you, Jesus bless you.
and God's Spirit help you to grow in love.

Amen.

(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.)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14; 19:13-15, CEB

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples, 3 and said, "I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Those who humble themselves like this little child will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

10 "Be careful that you don't look down on one of these little ones. I say to you that their angels in heaven are always looking into the face of my Father who is in heaven. 12 What do you think? If someone had one hundred sheep and one of them wandered off, wouldn't he leave the ninety-nine on the hillsides and go in search for the one that wandered off? 13 If he finds it, I assure you that he is happier about having that one sheep than about the ninety-nine who didn't wander off. 14 In the same way, my Father who is in heaven doesn't want to lose one of these little ones.

13 Some people brought children to Jesus so that he would place his hands on them and pray. But the disciples scolded them. 14 "Allow the children to come to me," Jesus said. "Don't forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children." 15 Then he blessed the children and went away from there.

God be in our listening,
God be in our understanding, **Amen.**

Sermon: Beloved Community: We Need Everybody

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 474:** "As a Child Rests"

(Congregation sings refrain only, choir sings verses)

AS A CHILD RESTS

Refrain:

**As a child rests in its mother's arms,
so will I rest in you.**

**As a child rests in its mother's arms,
so will I rest in you.**

My God, I am not proud.

I do not look for things too great. (Refrain)

My God, I trust in you.

You care for me, you give me peace. (Refrain)

O Israel, trust in God,

now and always trust in God. (Refrain)

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

Minute for Mission: Guatemala

Beth Mattson

Offertory: "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
And, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee.
Separate from sin, I would, and cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be, give him who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy power to see, I would be like thee;
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
Let thy word my weapon, be, Lord, Thine the victory.
Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

- Thomas Lynch (1818-1871) and K. Lee Scott

ADORO TE DEVOTE
arr. K. Lee Scott

❖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 HUNDRE

❖Prayer of Dedication

❖BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖Hymn 546: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

SICILIAN MARINERS

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us,
O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful,
ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us,
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever,
may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

❖Closing Responses

Is it true that God loves the world?

Amen. This is true!

Is it true that God loves all people?

Amen. This is true!

Is it true that Jesus came to make all things new?

Amen. This is true!

Then let us go forth
as those whom God has called,
to bear witness to the love and justice of heaven,
to be beacons of light and signs of transformation,
for of such is the kingdom of heaven. **Amen.**

❖Benediction

Postlude: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Spiritual
set by Mark Hayes



Thanks to Sydney Weeks for being the liturgist today. She is active at BPC and with UKirk.

"The Peace of the Earth" serves as our centering music this morning. A member of the Iona Community notated the traditional song "La Paz de la Tierra" while living in Guatemala. Christine Carson translated it from Spanish and John Bell arranged the song in four-part harmony.

Citations: Prayer of Confession and Closing Responses from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*.

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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 of this community.

Serving: Church Opener: Nancy Furr

Ushers: Tom and Judy Pospichal, Marti Snyder, and Angela Anderson

Elder Serving Refreshments: Elizabeth Day

The flowers for the sanctuary today are provided by Blacksburg Master Chorale with gratitude to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church for graciously providing space and support for our choirs, enabling us to make "joyful sounds" throughout the year!

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.

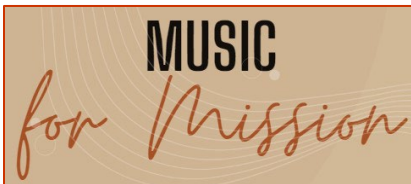
You can send prayer requests for Prayers of the People in Sunday worship and/or to be added to the *MidWeek Update* and website prayer list to Rhonda at

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



BPC's Music for Mission Concert Series continues, today, 4:00 pm, BPC: Featuring Fr. Sean Duggan, pianist. The concert is free with an offering taken to support local community ministries. This concert will benefit the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry.

International Mission Month Gathering - Guatemala, today, after worship, Fellowship Hall: Beth Mattson will give a slideshow and presentation on her trip earlier this year with other folks from Virginia to visit CEDEPCA in Guatemala. Appetizers will be provided.



Congregational Bonfire

Sunday, October 22, 5:30pm
Caldwell Fields, Milton Field
(3781 Craig Creek Rd, Catawba)

Enjoy s'mores and a warm fire in a beautiful autumn setting with fellow BPC members. There is no program, just plenty of time for fellowship and time by the fire. All are welcome! S'mores fixin's will be provided. Bring your own camp chairs and a picnic dinner!

THIS WEEK

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

Sun., Oct. 15: International Mission Month - Guatemala

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: International Mission Month Gathering, FH. See announcements.
- 4:00-5:00 pm: Music for Mission concert with Fr. Sean Duggan, piano. See announcements.
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR
- *No book study today* – Session meeting - 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

Mon., Oct. 16:

- 7:00-8:30: *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* book study, WM.

Tues., Oct. 17:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Led by Pastor Sarah (contact for link).
- 7:00 pm: Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team meeting, Zoom

Wed., Oct. 18:

- 5:30 pm: Handbells rehearsal, FH
- 7:00: Choir rehearsal, choir room

Thur., Oct. 19:

- 3:30 pm: Community Ministries, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery, 2351 Glades Road. Feel free to just show up.

Sun., Oct. 22: International Mission Month - Malawi

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 9:00: Adult Sunday School, FH. Death with Dignity: Living Our Faith in End-of-Life Planning. Topic this Sunday: Communicating Your End-of-Life Wishes, Hospice & Palliative Care. Led by Anne Campbell, Bill Hendricks, and Pastors Sarah and Emily
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: International Mission Month Gathering – Malawi Luncheon: Past Accomplishments and Our Future
- 5:30-7:00 pm: Congregational Bonfire, Caldwell Fields, Milton Field. All are welcome! See announcements.
- 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Oct. 23:

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

Wed., Oct. 25:

- 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle meeting (change in date for Oct. only), Angela Anderson's home (1100 Kings Arms Lane)

Sat., Oct. 28:

- 7:30-9:00 pm: Blacksburg Master Chorale concert, "Lift Every Voice: A Celebration of Black Composers," BPC

Sun., Oct. 29:

- After worship-1:00 pm: Celebrate fall with pumpkin carving, outside on patio (FH in case of rain). Bring your own pumpkin. Tools and a light lunch provided.
- 4:00-5:30: Interfaith Discussion Group of *The Great Partnership: God, Science, and the Search for Meaning* by Jonathan Sacks, Blacksburg Jewish Community Center

Mon., Oct. 30:

- 7:00-8:30: *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* book study (last meeting), WM