

# BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

OCTOBER 29, 2023

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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.

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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

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❖ Please rise in body or in spirit. We invite you to join in with the words in **bold**.

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

**Thought for Meditation:** "Without community, there is no liberation." - Audre Lorde

**Prelude:** "Meditation on Psalm 143:5"

Raymond Haan

I remember the days of old;  
I meditate on all thy works;  
I muse on the work of thy hands.

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Centering Music:** "In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful"

Taizé

❖ **Call to Worship**

Kyle White

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!**

Source, Guide, and Goal,

**Three-in-One, God-in-Community –  
we are here, longing for connection.**

Some of us have not been hugged all week,  
have had no one ask "how *are* you?" and listen for an answer,  
have felt misunderstood, neglected, alone.

**Do not despair:  
Here you are wanted, needed, beloved.  
Here you belong.**

Come, and be knit back together,  
**Come, and remember your place in the web of being,**

Come and trust the words of Jesus:  
**I have come so that you may have life,  
and have it abundantly!  
Come, let us worship together!**

❖ **Hymn 624:** "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

TOULON

**I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
my only trust and Savior of my heart,  
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.**

**Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,  
reigning omnipotent in every place:  
so come, O King, and our whole being sway;  
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.**

**Thou art the life, by which alone we live,  
and all our substance and our strength receive;  
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,  
and give us strength in every trying hour.**

**Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;  
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.  
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,  
that we may dwell in perfect unity.**

**Our hope is in no other save in thee;  
our faith is built upon thy promise free;  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
that in thy strength we evermore endure.**

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

*(Silent prayer)*

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
Beyond my fears, from death into life.

*(Choir only)*

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Neither this world nor your life is so broken  
that God cannot restore it to wholeness.  
In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### ❖ Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Halle, halle, hallelujah! *(sing three times)*

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*(Worshippers may exchange signs of God's peace, and children may come forward for a time of sharing faith together.)*

HALLE, HALLE

Refrain, Hymn 591

## ❖ HEARING THE WORD ❖

### Sharing Faith with Children

*(Children in 1<sup>st</sup> 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.)*

Sarah Windes

### Story of Abundant Life

Jenny Fairchild

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-26, CEB

12 Christ is just like the human body – a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. 13 We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. 14 Certainly the body isn't one part but many. 15 If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? 16 If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. 19 If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? 20 But as it is, there are many parts but one body. 21 So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." 22 Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. 23 The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. 24 The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor 25 so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it.

God be in our listening,

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

**Sermon:** Abundant Life: Community

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 306: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.

Before our \*Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes;  
our mutual burdens bear.  
And often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.

❖ **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: "Sing to the Lord"**

Cantate Domino canticum novum. Sing to the Lord, sing a jubilant song!  
Cantate Domino omnis terra. Sing to the Lord, O sing all the earth!

Jim Leininger

❖ **Doxology**

God, we honor you.  
God, we trust in you.  
God, we worship and adore you.  
Take what we bring, offered to you.  
Teach us to show your abundant blessings.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS  
Hymn 709

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, thank you!  
**Thank you for all the gifts we notice,  
and all the gifts we don't.**

Thank you for the ever-flowing river of your grace,  
your justice, your compassion, and your love.

**Let our gratitude overflow into generosity.  
Let your gifts to us overflow into gifts we give to others.  
As your children, made in your image,  
let us be creators of abundant life for all.**

In the joyful, generous name of Jesus we pray, **Amen.**

❖ **Hymn 694:** “Great God of Every Blessing”

AURELIA

Great God of every blessing,  
of faithful, loving care,  
you are the fount of goodness,  
the daily bread we share.  
How can we hope to thank you?  
Our praise is but a start:  
sincerely and completely  
I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation,  
the source of endless grace,  
in death and life extending  
your covenant embrace.  
In Christ we are one body;  
each member has a part:  
sincerely and completely  
I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher,  
the light that guides our search,  
transforming broken people  
into the holy church.  
For feeding us with mercy,  
for wisdom you impart:  
sincerely and completely  
I offer you my heart.

**Congregational Meeting**

Elder Class of 2026: Gabe Minnich

❖ **Benediction**

**Postlude:** “A Mighty Fortress”

Erik Meyer



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Citations: Assurance of Forgiveness from *Touch Holiness*. Prayer of Dedication by SALT project.

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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: Ben and Helen/ Clara Corl, Jack Call, and Jennifer Grover  
Elder 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](mailto: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



**All Saints' Day, November 5:** We will be celebrating All Saints Day in worship on Sunday, November 5. In this service we will remember and give thanks for the people who have been saints for us.

There are two ways you can contribute to our worship: This Sunday after worship you can add names to the cloth in the Gathering Space. These can be people you have known who've died or public figures who've influenced your faith. This cloth will be used on the communion table in worship on All Saints Day.

Additionally, in the service, the names of loved ones who have died in the last year will be read aloud. If you have lost a loved one in the last year and would like their name to be read, please complete the insert in today's bulletin and either place it in the offering plate or in the basket on the desk in the office. You can also submit your request at [blacksburgpres.org/saints](https://blacksburgpres.org/saints). Names of people who are not members of BPC are welcome. *Submission deadline: Nov. 1.*

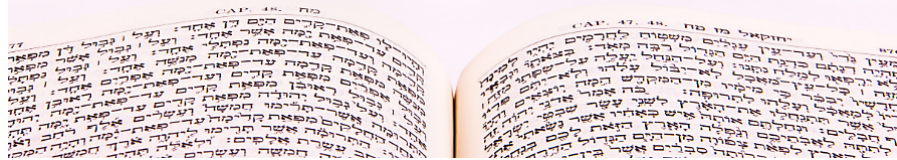
### Interfaith Reading Group

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

We are reading

**The Great Partnership: God, Science, and the Search for Meaning**  
by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

**Next meeting: Oct. 29 | 4pm | Jewish Community Center**  
**201 Roanoke St E, Blacksburg**



The Interfaith Book Group is resuming and beginning a new book: *The Great Partnership: God, Science, and the Search for Meaning*, in which Rabbi Jonathan Sacks argues that not only that science and religion are compatible, but that they complement each other – and that we and the world needs both. The first gathering is this afternoon at 4pm at the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center, 201 E. Roanoke Street. We will discuss chapters 1 and 2, but you're welcome even if you haven't started the book.

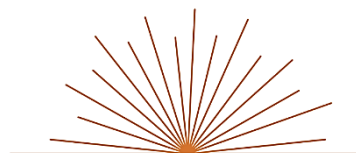
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Jesus came to bring abundant life, and BPC certainly has an abundance of joy, delight, and love. After worship on November 12, we'll have a meal together to celebrate the abundant life we share. There will be prizes, games, and surprises! Lunch will be provided.

**You do not need to bring anything except yourself.**

## YOU'RE INVITED!

What: A celebration of BPC's abundance of joy, delight, and love.  
When: Sunday, Nov. 12 | after worship | Who: YOU!  
Lunch will be provided. There will be prizes, games, and surprises!



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**The pictorial directory is complete!** Paper copies are located in the Gathering Space window. Please take one copy per household. A digital version is available via the BPC website. Contact Rhonda at [rhonda@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:rhonda@blacksburgpres.org) for the password to access and download.

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### THIS WEEK

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

#### **Sun., Oct. 29:**

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: Congregational meeting, SNC
- 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, Blacksburg Jewish Community Center. See announcements for details.
- 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory
- 7:00 Children's Ministry meeting, WM

#### **Mon., Oct. 30:**

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

#### **Tues., Oct. 31:**

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Led by Pastor Sarah (contact for link).

#### **Wed., Nov. 1:**

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

#### **Thur., Nov. 2:**

- 3:00-6:00 pm: Presbyterian Women and Church Women United meeting, HCR
- 5:00-6:00: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery, 2351 Glade Road. Feel free to just show up.

#### **Fri., Nov. 3:**

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

#### **Sun., Nov. 5:** Communion Sunday and All Saints' Sunday

- 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: Voluntarily Stop Eating and Drinking. Led by Anne Campbell, Bill Hendricks, and Pastors Sarah and Emily.
  - 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
  - 11:30-1:00 pm: I Love to Tell the Story - Bible 101, FH. Next (and last) class gathering will be on Sunday, Nov. 19. Led by Jonathan Anderson and Pastor Sarah.
  - 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Mon., Nov. 6:**

- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle meeting, FH. All are welcome.

### **Thur., Nov. 9:**

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

### **Fri., Nov. 10:**

- Church office is closed – Veterans Day (observed)

### **Sat., Nov. 11:**

- 4:00-6:00 pm: Last get-together - I Love to Tell the Story Social Hour, Eastern Divide (3175 Commerce Dr.). All are welcome including children.

### **Sun., Nov. 12:**

- After worship-1:00 pm: Abundant Life Lunch, FH See announcements for details.

### **Mon., Nov. 13:**

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR
- 6:00: Hildegard Circle meeting, TBA

### **Sun., Nov. 19:**

- 11:30-1:00 pm: Last class - I Love to Tell the Story - Bible 101, FH. Led by Jonathan Anderson and Pastor Sarah.