

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

JANUARY 21, 2024

Third Sunday after Epiphany

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.



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: "He allowed himself to be swayed by his conviction that human beings are not born once and for all on the day their mothers give birth to them, but that life obliges them over and over again to give birth to themselves."
– Gabriel García Márquez

Prelude: "Jesus Loves Me"

arr. Robert Vandall

Heidi Swartzwelder and Alice Sanders, piano duet

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "Raise a Song of Gladness"

JUBILATE DEO

(Sing 3 times)

Hymn 155

**Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!**

❖ **Call to Worship**

Wesley Flynn

Grace and peace be with you.

And also with you.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Join me, friends, as we begin our morning with praise.

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

God of all to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise!

**For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:**

God of all to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise!

**For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven:**

God of all to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise!

❖ **Hymn 634: "To God Be the Glory"**

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

**To God be the glory;
great things he has done!
So loved he the world
that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life
an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.**

scroll down for more . . .

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father
through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory:
great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us;
great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher
and greater will be
our wonder, our transport,
when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God, our Father,
Mother of us all,
we like it when things are done in an instant –
from reheating leftovers
to deep change in our souls.
We have a hard time with patience.

Slow us down – in spite of ourselves.
Remind us of your perspective, your pace, your process.
Help us trust your gift of new life
and the time it takes to be born. *(Silent prayer)*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear and trust the good news: by grace our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

❖ **Grateful Response: "Love Has Come"**

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

BRING A TORCH
Hymn 110, v. 3

❖ **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

(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.)

Alice Sanders

Prayer for Illumination

Creator of the cosmos, Breath of forgiveness, Source of life,
**open our eyes, as if for the first time,
so that we might see your world
with awe and wonder once again.**

We often approach your Word
with an analytical lens,
wanting to make everything make sense.

**For just a moment,
help us put those instincts on pause.
Give us space in our spirits to be astonished.
Help us greet these words with curiosity and gratitude.
Keep us curious about what they might do today
in our hearts and our lives. Amen.**

Scripture

John 3:1-8, CEB

1 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it's not possible to see God's kingdom." 4 Nicodemus asked, "How is it possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be born, isn't it?" 5 Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. 6 Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' 8 God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Sermon: Born Again

Rev. Sarah Wiles

Hymn 377 (vv. 1-3): "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

HOUSTON

(Choir sings vv. 1-2; congregation stands to sing v. 3)

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. (Refrain)

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)**

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

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: "Sonatina in C Major" Friedrich Kuhlau

❖ **Doxology:** "Jesus, Light of Joy"

Jesus, light of joy, surround us;
let your splendid glory shine:
source of every earthly blessing,
heaven's everlasting sign.
Alleluia, alleluia,
we adore you, light divine.

LAUDA ANIMA
Hymn 673, v. 1

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

Welcoming New Members

Jeff Evans	Elaine Scotton
Jenny and Micah Fairchild	Jack Weaver-Hightower
Daron and Nancy Phay	Rebecca Weaver-Hightower
Sue Dille & Barry Johnson	

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ **Hymn 301 (vv. 1, 5):** "Let Us Build a House"

TWO OAKS

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)

❖ **Benediction**

Postlude: "Choral Song"

S.S. Wesley



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: Brian Smith

Ushers: Craig and Sarah Woolsey, and Greg and Anne Campbell

Elder Serving Refreshments: Paula Stith

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



Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting, FH, Sun., Jan. 28, 3:00pm: Please join us for the annual meeting and celebration of Presbyterian Women. ALL women are invited! You do not have to be a member of a circle to participate in Presbyterian Women activities. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome. Pastor Sarah Wiles will lead the Bible study titled, "A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus." A remembrance of all the BPC women who passed away in 2023 will be observed. A short business meeting will include the election and installation of new leaders and budget information. Enjoy refreshments, fellowship, and some surprises!



Please note new time of 6:30 for
Ash Wednesday service.



A Loving Lent

Sundays in Lent

Feb 25, Mar 3, 10, 17

4:30pm | activities for children
age 3 - 5th grade

5:30 - 6:30pm | dinner for all

6:30pm - 7:30pm | youth group
& adult classes

nursery care provided throughout

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

The Sunday Night Discussion Group, 02/11, HCR (see below for meeting schedule) will begin a class on Jesus and the Gospels: *An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World*. Each class will feature a Great Courses video lecture by Luke Timothy Johnson which will be followed by discussion facilitated by Russell Gregory and Jack Call.

Contact Jack (jcall@radford.edu) or Russell (russellgregor@gmail.com) for details.

Note: The class will meet at **7:00 pm** except on February 25, March 3, and March 10 when it will meet at **6:30 pm**.

Blacksburg Presbyterian
Sunday evening
discussion group

Jesus and the Gospels An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World

with lectures by Luke Timothy Johnson
from The Great Courses



THIS WEEK

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

All activities are open to everyone.

Contact Rhonda at rhonda@blacksburgpres.org for more information.

Sat., Jan. 20 - Sat. Jan. 27:

- To Our House continues, FH. Contact Joan Dickinson (jjdickins@radford.edu) for volunteer opportunities.

Sun., Jan. 21:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
- 11:30-1:30 pm: Youth Group - eat lunch and make dinner for To Our House clients.
- 4:00-5:30: Interfaith Discussion Group, Friends Meeting House, 404 Mt. Tabor Rd., Bburg
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR
- *Not meeting tonight* - 7:00 pm: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR, with Russell Gregory and Jack Call

Mon., Jan. 22:

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

Tues., Jan. 23:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Contact Pastor Sarah for link.
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, HCR

Wed., Jan. 24:

- 5:30: Handbell choir rehearsal, TBA
- 7:00: Choir rehearsal, choir room

Thur., Jan. 25:

- 5:00-6:00 pm: Hangout Hour, Moon Hollow Brewery (4237 Prices Fork Rd.). Feel free to just show up.
- 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle, Peg Warren's home (1201 Highland Circle, Bburg)

Sat., Jan. 27:

- 10:00-2:00 pm: Dialogue on Race Winter Summit, Christiansburg Middle School (125 Buffalo Dr., NW). Small group dialogue sessions will deepen understanding and insight about combating racial injustice. 9:00 am Coffee with Cops in the cafeteria. Light lunch will be served at noon.

Sun., Jan 28:

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM. See announcements for details.
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 3:00-5:00 pm: Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting, FH. See announcements for details.
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00 pm: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR, with Russell Gregory and Jack Call

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri., Feb. 2:

- 5:00-6:00: First Fridays Peace Vigil, downtown post office, 118 N. Main St., Bburg

Sun., Feb. 4: Communion Sunday

- 4:00-5:30 pm: Interfaith Discussion Group, TBA

Mon., Feb. 12:

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR

Wed., Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday

- 6:30-7:30 pm: Ash Wednesday worship, SNC. See announcements for details.

Sun., Feb. 18: UKirk Sunday
