

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

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

“Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing,
there is a field. I’ll meet you there.”

– Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī

Prelude: “Episode No. 3”

James Naigus

Emma Grace Woolsey, horn

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter & Sarah Windes

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

Centering Music: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

(Sing twice)

WALK WITH ME
Hymn 775, v. 1

**I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

❖ **Call to Worship**

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!**

We are here to remember and proclaim the Good News that Jesus brought:
**the affirmation of the value of every human life,
the Gospel that confronts us with our own sin, slowing our rush to judgment,
the Spirit that soars with freedom and forgiveness.**

Come, friends, let us remember, rejoice,
and recommit ourselves
to the way of Jesus.

❖ **Hymn 429:** “As a Chalice Cast of Gold”

(Choir sings v. 1; congregation sings vv. 2-4)

INWARD LIGHT

**1 As a chalice cast of gold,
burnished, bright and brimmed with wine,
make me, Lord, as fit to hold
grace and truth and love divine.
Let my praise and worship start
with the cleansing of my heart.**

**2 Save me from the soothing sin
of the empty cultic deed
and the pious, babbling din
of the claimed but un-lived creed.
Let my actions, Lord, express
what my tongue and lips profess.**

**3 When I bend upon my knees,
clasp my hands, or bow my head,
let my spoken, public pleas
be directly, simply said,
free of tangled words that mask
what my soul would plainly ask.**

**4 When I dance or chant your praise,
when I sing a psalm or hymn,
when I preach your loving ways,
let my heart add its Amen.
Let each cherished outward rite
thus reflect your inward light.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
our brokenness is too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

❖ Grateful Response: "Alleluia!"

(Sing twice)

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

CELTIC ALLELUIA
Hymn 587

❖ 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

Melody Zobel

(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

John 7:53-8:11, CEB

53 They each went to their own homes,

1 And Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he returned to the temple. All the people gathered around him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The legal experts and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery. Placing her in the center of the group, 4 they said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. 5 In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone women like this. What do you say?" 6 They said this to test him, because they wanted a reason to bring an accusation against him. Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger. 7 They continued to question him, so he stood up and replied, "Whoever hasn't sinned should throw the first stone." 8 Bending down again, he wrote on the ground. 9 Those who heard him went away, one by one, beginning with the elders. Finally, only Jesus and the woman were left in the middle of the crowd. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Is there no one to condemn you?" 11 She said, "No one, sir." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, don't sin anymore."

Sermon

Rev. Jen Brothers

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ Hymn 695: "Change My Heart, O God"

CHANGE MY HEART

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

Offertory: "Cause Us, O Lord"

Ron Nelson

Cause us, O Lord our God,
to lie down each night in peace and to awaken to renewed life and strength.
Hear our prayer, O Lord. Lord, help us to order our lives by Thy counsel,
lead us in the paths of righteousness.
Lord, be Thou a shield about us, protect us, save our world from sorrow,
from hate, and from war.
Cure Thou within us the will to do evil.
Shelter us beneath the shadow of Thy wings.
Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down each night in peace,
and to awaken to renewed life and strength.
Amen.

❖ Doxology: "Jesus, Light of Joy"

LAUDA ANIMA
Hymn 673, v. 1

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.

❖ Prayer of Dedication

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ Hymn 707: "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

HALL

1 Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

2 Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.

3 Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

4 Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

❖ Benediction

Postlude: "Episode No. 4"

James Naigus



We welcome Rev. Jen Brothers to worship today. Jen is the church leadership ministry specialist of the Presbytery of the Peaks. She has a bachelor's degree from JMU, a master's in counseling from VT, and a Master of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary. She loves the work of coaching and facilitating adaptive change. She counts it a great privilege to partner with faithful folks throughout the Presbytery to discern the leading of God's Spirit and grow the capacity to follow.

Citations: Call to Worship from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book, rev. ed.* Prayer of Confession from *Book of Worship, United Church of Christ.*

Prayer for Illumination from *Connections Worship Companion, Year A, Vol 1.* Offertory text from *The Book of Prayer.*

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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: Mike McGilliard

Ushers: Darrell Bosch, and Gillian, Natasha, and Todd Lowe

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.



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

Today is Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday! The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national youth-led program to Tackle Hunger by helping local organizations. Your financial donations, to be collected during worship today or on BPC's Give page (www.blacksburgpres.org/give), will go to support the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry which serves hundreds of our neighbors each month. Thanks for making it a super Sunday for hungry families!



Congregational Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 18, 2024

after worship

There will be a congregational meeting following worship to receive the 2024 budget and to vote on Pastor Sarah's terms of call.

Paper copies of these are included in the 2023 Annual Report which is available today in the narthex.

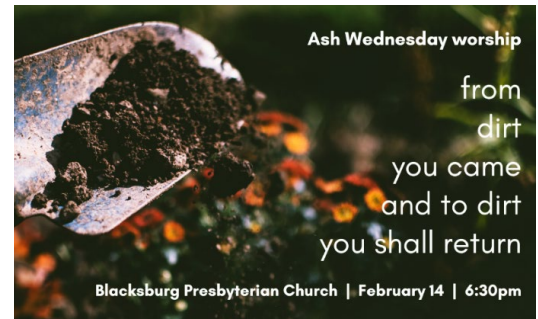
Digital copies will be accessible the week of Feb. 12 on the BPC website and in the Feb. 14 edition of the *Midweek Update*.

Lent begins this Wednesday, Feb. 14, and Lenten resources are available today. To help focus, your Lenten journey, several resources are available in the narthex for you to choose from and take home to use with your household:

- *Examen: Inward Work for Outward Living* - daily devotions by Teri McDowell Ott
- *Bless This Mess* household Lenten activities - a set of 40 illustrated cards with engaging daily practices (tea lights are also available to go with it)
- Back by popular demand - *One Great Hour of Sharing Gratitude Calendar* with fish boxes to collect your coins.



Our Ash Wednesday service this year (02/14, 6:30pm) will be a meditative service centered around psalms paired with hymns and pieces composed by Felix Mendelssohn. The works by Mendelssohn, including several of his *Songs Without Words* suggest the emotional themes of Ash Wednesday: lament, a longing for help, and trust in God's deliverance. The service will conclude with the imposition of ashes for all who wish to receive.



Lost and Found Clean-Up
(Your stuff misses you, too!)

Missing something?
Could you have left it at BPC?

Check the display and coat rack near the elevator to see if any of those items belong to you! After a few weeks, whatever is left will be taken to a thrift shop.

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.

Sun.-Sat., Feb. 11-17: Pastor Sarah will be out on vacation this week. If you need pastoral care, please contact Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter at emily@blacksburgpres.org.

Sun., Feb. 11: Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- During worship: Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, SNC. See announcements for details.
- *Change in schedule - 1st meeting will be Feb. 25 at 6:30 pm* - Sunday Night Discussion Group, HCR. New study begins on *Jesus and the Gospels: An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World*, a Great Courses video lecture by Luke Timothy Johnson, followed by discussion facilitated by Russell Gregory (russellgregor@gmail.com) and Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu).

Mon., Feb. 12:

- 7:00 pm: Hildegard Circle meeting, Zoom

Tues., Feb. 13:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, HCR

Wed., Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday

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

Thur., Feb. 15:

- 5:00-6:00 pm: Hangout Hour, Moon Hollow Brewery (4237 Prices Fork Rd.). Feel free to just show up.

Sun., Feb. 18: UKirk Sunday

- Cents-Ability Sunday
- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: Congregational Annual Meeting, SNC. See announcements for details.
- 11:45: Matthew 25 Advisory Team meeting, HCR
- 5:30-7:30 pm: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR
- *Change in schedule - 1st meeting will be Feb. 25 at 6:30* - Sunday Night Discussion Group, HCR. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World*, a Great Courses video lecture by Luke Timothy Johnson, followed by discussion facilitated by Russell Gregory (russellgregor@gmail.com) and Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Feb. 19: Holiday - church office is closed.

Tues., Feb. 20:

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries, Zoom
- 7:00: Creation Care Team, Zoom



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

childcare provided throughout

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church