



❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

**Thought for Meditation:** “I was in my mid-twenties when I first learned to understand love ‘as the will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth.’ ... Love is as love does. Love is an act of will – namely, both an intention and an action. Will also implies choice. We do not have to love. We choose to love.” – bell hooks, quoting Erich Fromm

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Celebrating Discipleship**

Heidi Swartzwelder

**Prelude:** “Etude #11: Larghetto”

Cyrille Rose

Kirsten Economou, flute

❖ **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!**

Judy Davis

❖ **Psalm of the Day**

Wind and wave and tumult of storm;  
earthquake and eruption and torrent of fire;  
flood and famine and terror of night;

**none of these  
equals the power  
that spoke matter into being,  
aligning the galaxies  
and setting the bounds.**

Judy Davis  
Psalm 97, adapted

Marvel of heavens and fecundity of earth;  
seasons and starlight and seedlings and sound;  
tenderness of touch and kindness of care;

**all of these  
testify to the goodness  
that wills life,  
inviting creation,  
opening Way,  
calling forth the heart's  
silent wonder  
and grateful song.**

❖ **Hymn 215: “What Wondrous Love Is This”**

WONDROUS LOVE

**1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**

**2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!**

**3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!**

*Scroll down for more . . .*

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
 and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
 and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
 and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
 and through eternity I'll sing on.

**Call to Confession**

Natasha Lowe

Eternal God, Maker of the skies above,  
 lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,  
 unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,  
 you are present among us.

O hidden mystery,  
 sun behind all suns,  
 soul within all souls,  
 in all we touch, in all we meet,  
 you are present among us.

As bearers of your image,  
 we come to be reshaped;  
 dependent on your mercy,  
 we ask to be made new.

**Prayer of Confession**

Natasha Lowe

For the right roads we avoided travelling,  
 and the kindly words we didn't share;  
 for the false gods who received our worship  
 and the true selves we have starved of love,  
 God, by your grace, **forgive us.**

For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly,  
 and the promises we never kept;  
 for the careless use of our time and money  
 and the excuses we never should have made,  
 God, by your grace, **forgive us.**

*(Silent prayer)*

**Hymn 577: "Lord, Have Mercy"**

KYRIE ELEISON

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

Note: Lower voices may hum.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

For all we should be and all we can amend,  
God, in your love, **renew us.**

For all you have in store for us and all you may demand of us,  
God, in your love, **prepare us.**

For the life of the world and the love of its people,  
God, in your love, **commit us.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Angela Anderson

Hear and trust these words of Jesus:  
Don't be afraid.  
Your sins are forgiven.  
Come and follow me. **Amen.**

❖ **Passing of the Peace**

Angela Anderson

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**

Anne Campbell

*(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.)*

**Prayer for Illumination**

Natasha Lowe

*(Silent Prayer)*

**Scripture**

John 14:15-21, CEB

**Sermon:** Love One Another

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 201: "A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar"**

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

**1 A prophet-woman broke a jar,  
by Love's divine appointing.  
With rare perfume she filled the room,  
presiding and anointing.  
A prophet-woman broke a jar,  
the sneers of scorn defying.  
With rare perfume she filled the room,  
preparing Christ for dying.**

**2 A faithful woman left a tomb  
by Love's divine commission.  
She saw; she heard; she preached the Word,  
arising from submission.  
A faithful woman left a tomb,  
with resurrection gospel.  
She saw; she heard; she preached the Word,  
apostle to apostles.**

**3 Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth,  
for centuries were hidden,  
unsung, unwritten, and unheard,  
derided and forbidden,  
the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire,  
on free and slave descending,  
can tumble our dividing walls,  
our shame and sadness mending. *(Scroll down for more)***

**4 The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls,  
by Love's divine ordaining,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead,  
their powers and gifts unchaining.  
The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls,  
from women, men and children,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead.  
Rejoice, and make them welcome!**

**Litany of Gratitude and Celebration**

Jan McGilliard and Sarah Windes

For the gifts of women throughout the ages, **we give thanks.**

For the ways that they have shown up – from Shiphrah and Puah to Miriam and Hagar, from Deborah and Jael to Ruth and Rahab, to Vashti and Esther,  
**we celebrate you.**

For their courage and strength, resistance and rest, wisdom and subversiveness  
**we celebrate you.**

For Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah, we recognize your groundbreaking advocacy, **we give thanks for you.**

For Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Elisabeth, her cousin; we see your brave faith, **we honor you.**

For Jephthah's daughter and the Benjamite's concubine, for Leah and Peninnah and all the women who have been reduced to their reproductive abilities,  
**we give thanks and honor, for you are so much more than that.**

For Mary Magdalene, Martha, Mary, Joanna, Susanna, Rhoda, Dorcas, Tabitha, and the countless unnamed women of the sacred texts,  
**we center you from the margins and celebrate you.**

For mothers, aunts, wives, daughters, sisters; for all the women – in every walk of life, throughout all space and time,  
**we give thanks. We celebrate you. We honor you. Amen.**

**Call to Offering**

Mary Ann Bowling

**Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering**

Anna Bach

**Offertory: "There is a Balm in Gilead"**

arr. Bill Ingram

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

❖ **Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Hymn 607

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

Jenny Fairchild

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ **Hymn 205: "Live in Charity (Ubi caritas)"**

UBI CARITAS (Taizé)

*(Sing Latin words; repeat as directed)*

**Live in charity and steadfast love.  
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.**

*Ubi caritas et amor,  
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

❖ **Benediction**

Natasha Lowe

**Postlude: "The Clear Forest"**

Charles Koechlin



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Citations: Psalm of the Day adapted by Carla A. Grosch-Miller. Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Forgiveness from *Iona Abbey Worship Book, rev. ed.* Litany of Gratitude and Celebration by Anita Wright.

Art: Paynter, David, 1900-1975. Jesus washing the disciples' feet, detail of mural, from Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN, [library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54318](http://library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54318). Original: [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Trinity\\_College\\_Chapel\\_Mural\\_\(2\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Trinity_College_Chapel_Mural_(2).jpg). (Creative Commons Attrib. Share license).

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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:** Anne and Greg Campbell

**Ushers:** Anne Campbell, Judy Pospichal, Marti Snyder, Sandy Power

**Birthday Cupcakes:** Elizabeth Day, provided by BPC Presbyterian Women

**Headsets for the hard of hearing:** 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@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.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us tonight for our last evening of Loving Lent!

- \* 4:30-5:30pm: activities for children ages 3 years old to 5th grade (nursery care provided)
- \* 5:30-6:30pm: potluck dinner for all
- \* 6:30-7:30pm: youth group & adult education (childcare provided for kids up through 5th grade)

Adult option for this Sunday: *Loving the Church* - by learning more about UKirk at VT featuring a spirited game of trivia during dinner!



**Engaging Our Gifts in Community:** During worship, we have been hearing each week from a person who engages their gifts in the BPC community, and how it gives them joy. Thanks so much to Ben, Jenny, Dan, and Heidi for telling their stories!

We hope that you have completed an Engagement Questionnaire for 2024 as a way of offering your gifts and time for our community, or that you will do so soon! Questionnaires are found at [blacksburgpres.org/engagement-questionnaire](https://blacksburgpres.org/engagement-questionnaire) or you can pick up a copy today in the Gathering Space.

Today, we invite you to sign a card (bulletin insert) pledging to engage your gifts and agreeing that you have completed or will complete a 2024 Engagement Questionnaire.



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## 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](mailto:rhonda@blacksburgpres.org) for more information.

### **Sun., Mar. 17:** Fifth Sunday of Lent & Presbyterian Women Sunday

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 11:45: Meet the Artist – Art Exhibit & Conversation with Judy Crowgey, WM
- 4:30-7:30 pm: A Loving Lent, FH. See announcements for details.
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- *Not meeting tonight* – 7:00: 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](mailto:russellgregor@gmail.com)) and Jack Call ([jcall@radford.edu](mailto:jcall@radford.edu)).
- (*note change in start time to 7:30 tonight*) - 7:30: Session meeting, HCR

### **Tues., Mar. 19:**

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

### **Wed., Mar. 20:**

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

**Fri., Mar. 22:** 7:30-8:30 pm: Blacksburg Master Chorale concert: *Songs of Resistance and Transcendence*, SNC. Created and conducted by Dr. Larry Wyatt. See the master chorale website at [blacksburgmasterchorale.org](https://blacksburgmasterchorale.org) for details and ticket information.

### **Sun., Mar. 24:** Palm/Passion Sunday

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 11:45: Montgomery County African American Legacy Driving Tour. Meet in Fellowship Hall for a brief program and lunch before the tour. See the *MidWeek Update* for details.
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: Sunday Night Discussion Group, HCR. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World*, a video lecture, with Russell and Jack (see 03/17 above for details).

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## UPCOMING and HOLY WEEK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Mon., Mar. 25:**

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

### **Tues., Mar. 26:**

- *Meeting on Tuesday this month* – 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle, Sarah Woolsey's home

### **Thur., Mar. 28:**

- 6:00 pm: Maundy Thursday, congregational meal & communion, FH

**Fri., Mar. 29:** Good Friday

- Church office is closed.
- 7:00 pm: Worship service, SNC

**Sun., Mar. 31:** Easter Sunday

- 9:00 am: Community Breakfast for all, provided by Men of the Church, FH
- 10:00 Easter egg hunt, BPC grounds. Bring a basket!
- 10:30: Worship service. Bring flowers for flowering the cross.

**Mon., Apr. 1:** Easter Monday

- Church office is closed.
- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lyda Circle meeting, FH