

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

APRIL 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

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 was mastered by the sheer surging of life, the tidal wave of being, the perfect joy of each separate muscle, joint, and sinew in that it was everything that was not death, that it was aglow and rampant, expressing itself in movement, flying exultantly under the stars.” — Jack London

Prelude: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

arr. Benjamin Roundtree

Jenn Engelke and Judy McCord, handbells

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Call to Worship**

Judy Davis

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!

Light breaks forth like the dawn,

scattering the darkness and renewing our hope.

The God of love is our joy and our life,

the wellspring of our praise,

the font of all our alleluias.

Alleluia! Amen.

❖ **Hymn 248:** “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

HYMN TO JOY

Linda King, piano

1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!

Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:

all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding,

see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding

bring a taste of love unknown.

2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits

from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning.

See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection,

not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion.

Joy and peace shall never end.

3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven

nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation

where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus:

"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us.

Sing Hosanna everyone!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of love, bring new life where we are worn and tired;
new love where we have turned hard-hearted;
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit
where we are prisoners of ourselves.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

By grace, we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

Response to God's Grace: "Alleluia!"

CELTIC ALLELUIA

(Sing two times)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

❖ 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

Claire White

(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

Light of our lives,

Light of our hearts,

open our eyes to your presence with us,

this morning and always.

Alleluia! Amen.

Scripture

1 John 1:1-2:2, CEB

1 We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen and our hands handled, about the word of life. 2 The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. 3 What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete. 5 This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: "God is light and there is no darkness in him at all." 6 If we claim, "We have fellowship with him," and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. 7 But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. 8 If we claim, "We don't have any sin," we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we've done wrong. 10 If we claim, "We have never sinned," we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

1 My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one.

2 He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

For the Spirit of Wisdom in scripture,
for the Spirit of Wisdom among us,
for the Spirit of Wisdom within us,
thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

Sermon: For the Joy of It

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 623:** "I've Got Peace like a River"

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

1 I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

2 I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.

3 I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.

Call to Offering

Offertory: "Easter Alleluia Medley"

Molly Wilkens-Reed, viola

arr. Gary Lanier

Doxology: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"
(Sing twice)

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Alleluia, alleluia!
Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give praise to his name.

Hymn 240, refrain only

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

Celebration of Communion

Rev. Sarah Wiles

(All are welcome at Christ's table. Use the center aisle to reach a station in the front of the sanctuary and return by the side aisle to your seat. Gluten-free bread is available at the center station in front. If you need to remain seated, the elements will be brought to you.)

❖ **Hymn of the Table: "Come to the Table of Grace"**

TABLE OF GRACE, Hymn 507

1 Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.

2 Come to the table of peace...

3 Come to the table of love...

4 Come to the table of hope...

5 Come to the table of joy...

Invitation to the Feast

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer After Supper

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ **Hymn 703: "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"**

ST. CATHERINE

1 Jesus, thy boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee,
and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live;
myself to thee entirely give.

2 O grant that nothing in my soul
may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole,
my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
may every act, word, thought be love.

3 O Love, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away
where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

❖ **Benediction**

Postlude: "How Great Thou Art"

arr. Jerry Ray



Citations: Call to Worship from *Connections Worship Companion, Year B, Volume 1*. Prayer of Confession from *Stages on the Way*.
Art: *Joyful Mountain Landscape*, Paul Klee, 1879-1940, Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55666. Original source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Heitere_Gebirgslandschaft_by_Paul_Klee_1929.jpeg.

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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: Phil Bailey, Ben Bailey, Marcia Parks, and Sandy Power

Elder Serving Refreshments: Gabe Minnich

The flowers in the sanctuary today are provided by the Spencer family to the glory of God and in loving memory of Andrew Bailey Spencer.

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, after worship

A TASTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Filipino dishes & dessert

lunch & presentation
by leading VT researcher
Dr. Eranga Galappaththi
on Indigenous fisheries,
biodiversity & climate change

donations will benefit upcoming BPC
learning trip to the Philippines



God is love, period.

1 John's radical theology of love

Sundays at BPC . 10:30am . begins Apr 7

Can we talk?

speaking the truth in love
in family, friendship,
marriage, work, & more...



spring adult formation . sundays, 9am, beginning april 7
facilitated by Anna Bach

All-Church Hike

Celebrate Earth Day weekend
Revel in the outdoors!
with ways for all ages & abilities to participate

Apr. 20, 10am | Heritage Park | 2801 Meadowbrook Dr.
rain date: Apr. 27

THIS WEEK

All activities are open to everyone.

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

Sun., Apr. 7: Communion Sunday

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: All ages are invited to a "Taste of the Philippines" featuring Filipino dishes and dessert! Come learn how Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines and around the world experience climate change, biodiversity loss, and discrimination leading to changes in indigenous food systems, and ways of life. FH
- 3:00-5:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, Friends Meeting House (404 Mt. Tabor Rd.)
- 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*, lecture series, with discussion facilitated by Russell Gregory (russellgregor@gmail.com) and Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu).

Mon., Apr. 8:

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR
- 6:00: Hildegard Circle meeting, Marti Snyder's home (609 Kelly Ln.)

Tues., Apr. 9:

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

Wed., Apr. 10:

- No choir rehearsals this week, resumes next week.

Thur., Apr. 11:

- 3:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00 pm: Hangout Hour, Moon Hollow Brewery (4237 Prices Fork Rd.). Feel free to just show up.

Sun., Apr. 14: Youth Sunday

- 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
- 7:00 pm: Sunday Night Discussion Group, HCR. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World*, lecture series, with Jack and Russell. See 04/07 for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat., Apr. 20:

- 10:00-1:00 am: All-Church Hike, Heritage Park. Join us for fellowship as we celebrate Earth Day weekend with a congregational hike! We'll meet at Heritage Park (2801 Meadowbrook Dr.) for some light snacks before heading out in groups. There will be ways to participate for all ages and abilities. Rain date: April 27.

Sun., Apr. 21:

- After worship: Join us for an Earth Day film, *Kiss the Ground*, FH. Lunch will be served with a brief discussion afterward. (Sponsored by Creation Care Team & Virginia Interfaith Power and Light)
- 3:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, TBA
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR

Mon., Apr. 22:

- 1:00 pm: Knitwits, WM

Thur. Apr. 25:

- 7:30 pm: Faith Circle meeting, Sarah Woolsey's home (2105 Hardwick St.)

Sun., Apr. 28:

- After worship: Interacting Inclusively - Join us to hear Mary Evans, a special education instructor at Radford University, speak of ways to give children extra support who need it, recognize when to step in (or not), and share ideas on diffusing difficult situations. You won't walk away as an expert, but you will learn a few tricks, gain confidence in helping kids, and have a new perspective on what it means to have a brain that functions differently than yours. Snacks will be provided, FH.