

# BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

APRIL 14, 2024

## Youth Sunday

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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:** “. . . To hear God, You have to be willing to experience what’s holy in places many people don’t deem to be sacred.” - Amena Brown

**Welcome and Announcements**

Natalie Green

**Prelude:** “La Cloche des Matines (Matin Bell)”

Johann Friedrich Burgmüller

Heidi Swartzwelder, piano

❖ **Call to Worship**

Leif Anderson

“How do you know when you are hearing from God?” As poet Amena Brown writes,

**It is to explain the butter grit of cornbread to a mouth that just discovered  
it has a tongue**

The sound of jazz to ears that only ever thought they’d be lobes of flesh

**The sight of sunsets to blinded eyes that in an instant can see...**

Like explaining to a newborn baby this is what it feels like to be held...

**The way [one] sings a simple song from [their] spirit, and porches turn to  
cathedrals.**

❖ **Prayer of Approach**

Helen Corl

Sometimes, when I pray, I think of [the woman who asked the poet about hearing from God]

**How the voice of God was lingering in her very question**

How so many of us just like her

**Just like me**

Just like you

**Are still searching**

Still questioning, still doubting

**I know I don’t have all the answers**

I know I never will

**That sometimes the best thing we can do is put our hands in the middle of our chest**

Feel the rhythm there

**Turn down the noise in our minds, in our lives**

And whisper,

**God, whatever you want to say, I’m here. I’m listening.**

❖ **Hymn 727: “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”**

THE SERVANT SONG

**1 Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant too.**

**2 We are pilgrims on a journey;  
we’re together on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**3 I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the nighttime of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**4 I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I’ll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we’ve seen this journey through.**

*Scroll down for more . . .*

**5 When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.**

**6 Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant too.**

**Call to Confession**

Helen Corl

**Prayer of Confession**

Helen Corl

Lord, forgive us.

When you were hungry we did not feed you.

**Forgive us.**

When you were thirsty we did not give you something to drink.

**Forgive us.**

When you were a stranger we did not welcome you.

**Forgive us.**

When you were naked we did not give you clothes.

**Forgive us.**

When you were sick and imprisoned we did not visit you.

**Forgive us.**

God, forgive us for all the times we overlooked you.

*(Silent prayer)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Reed Lawrence

**❖ Passing of the Peace**

Reed Lawrence

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**

Clara Corl and Natalie Green

*(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**

Vivian Baranauskas

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 25:31-46 (CEV)

Søren Anderson

31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all his angels, he will sit on his royal throne. 32 The people of all nations will be brought before him, and he will separate them, as shepherds separate their sheep from their goats. 33 He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 Then the king will say to those on his right, "My father has blessed you! Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created. 35 When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, 36 and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me." 37 Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask, "When did we give you something to eat or drink? 38 When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear 39 or visit you while you were sick or in jail?" 40 The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me." 41 Then the king will say to those on his left, "Get away from me! You are under God's curse. Go into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels! 42 I was hungry, but you did not give me anything to eat, and I was thirsty, but you did not give me anything to drink. 43 I was a stranger, but you did not welcome me, and I was naked, but you did not give me any clothes to wear. I was sick and in jail, but you did not take care of me." 44 Then the people will ask, "Lord, when did we fail to help you when you were hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in jail?" 45 The king will say to them, "Whenever you failed to help any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you failed to do it for me." 46 Then Jesus said, "Those people will be punished forever. But the ones who pleased God will have eternal life."

**Scripture Skit:** Ella Lawrence, Carolyn Drumheller, Leif Anderson, Jonah Fairchild, Clara Corl, Nora Green, Helen Corl, Reed Lawrence, Vivian Baranauskas, Søren Anderson, and Natalie Green

**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10 (CEV) Nora Green  
4-5 But God was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much he made us alive with Christ, and God's gift of undeserved grace is what saves you.  
8 You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own. 9 It isn't something you have earned, so there is nothing you can brag about. 10 God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. This is why he sent Christ to make us what we are.

**Reflection:** Welcoming the Stranger Jordan Boffen

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 186:** "Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table" COME NOW, YOU BLESSED

1 "Come now, you blessed, eat at my table,"  
said Jesus Christ to the righteous above.  
"When I was hungry, thirsty, and homeless,  
sick and in prison, you showed me your love."

2 When did we see you hungry or thirsty?  
When were you homeless, a stranger alone?  
When did we see you sick or in prison?  
What have we done that you call us your own?

3 "When you gave bread to earth's hungry children,  
when you gave shelter to war's refugees,  
when you remembered those most forgotten,  
you cared for me in the smallest of these."

4 Christ, when we see you out on life's roadways,  
looking to us in the faces of need,  
then may we know you, welcome, and show you  
love that is faithful in word and in deed.

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Helen Corl, Nora Green  
Søren Anderson and Ella Lawrence

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|---|--|
| Our Father in heaven,<br>hallowed be your name,<br>your kingdom come,<br>your will be done,<br>on earth as in heaven.<br>Give us today our daily bread. | Forgive us our sins<br>as we forgive those who sin against us.<br>Save us from the time of trial<br>and deliver us from evil.<br>For the kingdom, the power,<br>and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen. |
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**Call to Offering** Helen Corl

**Offertory:** "Waldesruhe" Antonin Dvořák

Charlie Wyatt, cello

**Doxology:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD HUNDREDTH  
Hymn 607  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

❖ **Prayer of Dedication** Vivian Baranauskas

❖ **Hymn 767: "Together We Serve"**

**1 Together we serve,  
united by love,  
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.  
We work and we pray  
through sorrow and joy,  
extending God's love to the last and the least.**

**2 We seek to become  
a beacon of hope,  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year,  
to let love shine through  
until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**3 We welcome the scarred,  
the wealthy, the poor,  
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home  
to those who will come,  
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

**4 Together, by grace,  
we witness and work,  
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve  
in Spirit and truth,**

❖ **Benediction**

Jordan Boffen

**Postlude: "La Chasse" (The Hunt) Op. 100, No. 9**

Johann Friedrick Burgmüller

Reed Lawrence, piano



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Thanks to the youth and youth advisers who helped with Youth Sunday!

Advisers: Colleen and Russell Drumheller, Jenny Fairchild, Mary Lee Hendricks, and Susan Hunter.

Citations: Call to Worship, Prayer of Approach, Call to Confession, and Prayers of the People adapted from "She Said, 'How Do You Know When You are Hearing from God?'" by Amena Brown.

AV Technicians: Luke Clark (livestream) and Gavin Faulkner (sound).

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

**Elder Serving Refreshments:** Paula Stith

**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

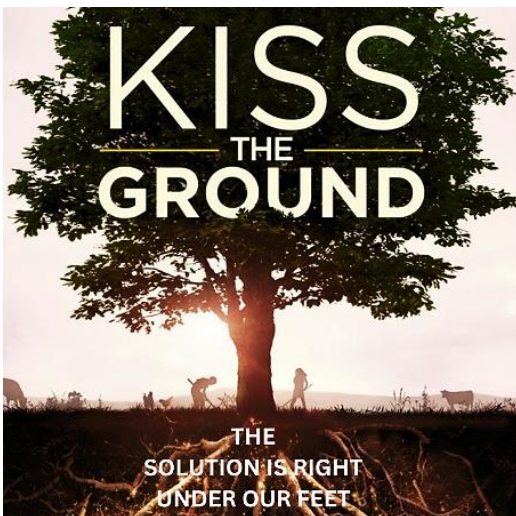
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# God is love, period.

1 John's radical theology of love  
Sundays at BPC . 10:30am . begins Apr 7

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Join us for an Earth Day film, *Kiss the Ground*, Sun., April 21, 11:45am, FH: *Kiss the Ground* is an inspiring and groundbreaking film that reveals the first viable solution to our climate crisis. By regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle. Lunch will be served with a brief discussion afterward.

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# interacting inclusively

nurturing  
neurodivergent  
children

with Mary Evans  
Special Education Instructor  
Radford University



BPC | April 28 | after worship  
all are welcome

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## THIS WEEK

All activities are open to everyone.

Contact Rhonda at [rhonda@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:rhonda@blacksburgpres.org) for more information.

### **Sun., Apr. 14:** Youth Sunday

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 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](mailto:russellgregor@gmail.com)) and Jack Call ([jcall@radford.edu](mailto:jcall@radford.edu)).

### **Tues., Apr. 16:**

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

### **Wed., Apr. 17:**

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

### **Thur., Apr. 18:**

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

### **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:** Cents-Ability Offering

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM. Communication with Anna Bach.
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 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). See announcements for details.
- 3:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, Jewish Community Center
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 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 04/14 for details.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **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 extra support to children 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.
- 7:00 pm: Session meeting, H