



May 7, 2023

**BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Our Mission**  
**Proclaiming God's Word**  
**Growing in faith and understanding**  
**Welcoming all**  
**Extending comfort and grace**  
**Working for justice and peace**  
**Nurturing creation**  
**Being generous stewards of God's gifts**

Pastor – Rev. Sarah Wiles  
Director of Music – Dr. Larry Wyatt  
Organist/Pianist – Amanda Raymond  
Director of Children/Youth Ministries – Susan Hunter  
Coordinator of Church Life – Sarah Windes  
Office Manager – Rhonda Waller  
Parish Associate – Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter  
Campus Minister, UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech – Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter  
Mission Partner in Malawi – Dr. Arie Glas  
Mission Partners in the Philippines – Cobbie Palm & Dessa Quesada-Palm  
Mission Partners in Guatemala – Betsey & Eric Moe

Service is also livestreamed and is available at [www.blacksburgpres.org](http://www.blacksburgpres.org).

*If you are new to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and would like more information  
or to join our email list, please contact the church office at  
540-552-2504 or email [bpc@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:bpc@blacksburgpres.org).*

---

❖ *Please rise in body or in spirit. We invite you to join in with the words in **bold**.*

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 7, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

**Thought for Meditation:** "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."  
— Augustine of Hippo

**Prelude:** "I Am Thine, O Lord (Draw Me Nearer)" Robert J. Powell

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev. Sarah Wiles  
Sarah Windes

**Centering Music:** "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!" GELOBT SEI GOTT  
Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Hymn 239  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

❖ **Call to Worship** Julie Burger

Sharing stories, sharing food —  
**this is our life.**  
Sharing wisdom, sharing hope —  
**this is our truth.**  
Sharing laughter, sharing pain —  
**this is our way.**  
Longing for Jesus  
who sets us free  
**we come to worship.**

❖ **Hymn 624:** "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" TOULON

**I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
my only trust and Savior of my heart,  
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.**

**Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,  
reigning omnipotent in every place:  
so come, O King, and our whole being sway;  
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.**

**Thou art the life, by which alone we live,  
and all our substance and our strength receive;  
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,  
and give us strength in every trying hour.**

**Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;  
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.  
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,  
that we may dwell in perfect unity.**

**Our hope is in no other save in thee;  
our faith is built upon thy promise free;  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
that in thy strength we evermore endure.**

### ❖Prayer of Approach

Breath of Life,  
what we seek,  
**only you can give;**  
what we ask,  
**we cannot find ourselves;**  
what we want  
**is a gift**  
**and the open graciousness to receive it.**  
**Come Holy Spirit!**  
**Amen.**

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

God beyond all names,  
God beyond all knowing,  
we confess that we are more comfortable with things we can understand,  
so we're not always very comfortable with you.  
We try to fit you into our categories,  
our sense of right and wrong, in and out.  
Forgive us  
and break us open  
with your wild mercy for all.

*(Silent prayer)*

#### Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear and believe the good news:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God!**

### ❖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

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

*(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. Please complete a sign-in sticker for each child.)*

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture Reading

John 14:1-14

Common English Bible

1 "Don't be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. 2 My Father's house has room to spare. If that weren't the case, would I have told you that I'm going to prepare a place for you? 3 When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. 4 You know the way to the place I'm going."

5 Thomas asked, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you have really known me, you will also know the Father. From now on you know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us."

9 Jesus replied, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don't speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Trust me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. 12 I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. 14 When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it."

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** Way, Truth, and Life

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 377:** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

HOUSTON

**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)**

**Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Rev. Kathy Carpenter**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory:** "O Taste and See"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is,  
Blest is the man that trusteth in him.

-- Psalm 34:8

❖ **Doxology**

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

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

**Celebration of Communion**

Rev. Sarah Wiles

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

*(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.)*

**Invitation to the Table**

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

## Sharing of Bread and Cup

## Prayer After Supper

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

## ❖ Hymn 724: "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ANGEL'S STORY

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me,  
my Master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me!  
The world is ever near:  
I see the sights that dazzle;  
the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer  
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be.  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.

## ❖ Benediction

Postlude: "Toccata in E Minor"

Johann Pachelbel



## 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 and ministry of this community.

**Serving: Church Opener:** Ben Corl

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

**Elder Serving Refreshment:** Lisa Smith

**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 *Mid-Week Update* and website prayer list to Rhonda, ([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



Do you love someone who is transgender, but you're not sure you totally understand what that means? Do you want to be welcoming, but you're not sure where to start or what the Bible really says? Are you transgender or nonbinary, but you're not sure if Christianity really can be welcoming of all?

Join us for this two-part class with the first meeting today after worship and the second on May 21. Today, we will address basic terminology and ways to be welcoming to our transgender siblings in Christ. In the second week, we will dig into scripture to better understand a Christian theology of welcome. Today, adults will meet in Fellowship Hall and youth (grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>) will meet in Hatcher. All will meet together the second week in Fellowship Hall. There will be light refreshments.



**The BPC Presbyterian Women Gifts of Women Sunday** will be held on May 14, 2023. Celebrating PW's history of giving, a Birthday Offering is received annually during this service which funds mission projects impacting people in the U. S. and around the world. BPC's

support of the offering in 2023 will ensure that grants are provided for a group home supporting young mothers in Tallahassee, FL, and the construction of a building to house kindergarten in Ethiopia. A donation can be made two ways: drop a check in the offering plate (envelopes are available in the pews) made out to BPC with "Birthday Offering" in the memo line or go to BPC's Give page, and choose "PW Birthday Offering" from the dropdown menu: [blacksburgpres.org/give](https://blacksburgpres.org/give)



**Presbyterian Women Together in Service Mission - Kids' Bedding Drive:** Presbyterian Women Circles, led by the Faith Circle, are inviting the congregation to participate in a Together in Service (TIS) mission project. PW will be accepting new, twin-size bed-in-a-bag contributions. Individual bedding items or used items cannot be accepted. The bags will be given to [Sleep in Heavenly Peace-NRV](#), an organization with the motto, "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!" The organization will provide the bed frames. (Twin-size bed-in-a-bag sets may be found on Amazon for just under \$25.) BPC donations may be placed under the coat racks beside the elevator or outside the Hatcher Conference Room now through the month of May. Angela Anderson and members of the Faith Circle will collect the bedding and drop them off at the end of the collection.

---

**BPC Youth, sharing their gifts!** Come to the Showalter dining room at Warm Hearth (1600 Showalter Dr.) on Sun., May 14 at 2:00-2:30 pm to hear the following BPC confirmation youth sharing their gifts: Charlie Wyatt on cello, Heidi Swartzwelder on piano, and Sophia Warren with spoken word.

---

#### THIS WEEK

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

#### **Sun., May 7:** Communion Sunday

- After worship: Welcoming All - What the Bible Says About Gender, FH & HCR. See announcements for details.
- 2:00-5:00 pm: Confirmation Retreat, HCR & WM
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00-8:00: Book Study, *The Different Drum* by M. Scott Peck, with Jack Call ([jcall@radford.edu](mailto:jcall@radford.edu)) and Russell Gregory, HCR

#### **Mon., May 8:**

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

#### **Tues., May 9:**

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars with Pastor Sarah, Zoom
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

#### **Wed., May 10:**

- 4:00 pm: Malawi Partnership, HCR
- 7:00: Choir rehearsal, choir room

#### **Thur., May 11:**

- 3:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Contact Melanie and Scott [melscofam@gmail.com](mailto:melscofam@gmail.com) for details.

#### **Sun., May 14:** Gifts of Women Sunday

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
  - 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM
  - 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
  - 2:00-2:30 pm: BPC Confirmation Youth - Sharing Their Gifts, Showalter dining room. See announcements for details.
  - 7:00-8:00: Book Study, *The Different Drum* by M. Scott Peck, with Jack Call ([jcall@radford.edu](mailto:jcall@radford.edu)) and Russell Gregory, HCR
- 

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Thur., May 18:**

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries, Zoom

#### **Sun., May 21:**

- After worship: Welcoming All - What the Bible Says About Gender, FH & HCR. See announcements for details.
- 7:00 pm: Session meeting, HCR

#### **Mon., May 22:**

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

**Tues., May 23:**

- 1:00-3:00 pm: Knitwits, WM
- 5:30: Creation Care Team meeting, HCR

**Thur., May 25:**

- 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle meeting, TBA

**Sun., May 28:** Pentecost Sunday

**Sun., June 11-Wed., June 14:** Save the Date! Vacation Bible School, 5:30-8:00 pm. Contact Susan Hunter, youth and children ministry director, for information at 540-552-2504 or [susanh@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:susanh@blacksburgpres.org).