



May 21, 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.

*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.*

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 21, 2023**

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: "Thus the vocation of the baptized person is a simple thing: it is to live from day to day, whatever the day brings, in this extraordinary unity, in this reconciliation with all people and all things, in this knowledge that death has no more power, in this truth of the resurrection . . . The only thing that really matters to live in Christ instead of death" — William Stringfellow

Prelude: "Love at Home"

arr. Robert P. Manookin

Dwight Bigler, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "Christ Is Alive!"

TRURO

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

❖ **Call to Worship**

Beth Mattson

All who thirst, come to the water
and drink deeply of these living streams.
Come, all who are weary;
come, all who yearn for forgiveness.
Our gracious God beckons and blesses us.
Let us give praise for new life in Christ.

❖ **Hymn 451:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

OPEN MY EYES

**Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

❖ **Prayer of Approach**

Glory be to you, O God,
whom we worship in awe and wonder.

**You are the author of all beginnings
and all that is pronounced "good."**

In you both day and night have purpose,
both calm and storm have meaning.

**Open the eyes of our imagination,
that we may be ready to receive your gifts
and discern your activity in our midst.**

In the name of Jesus,
in whose baptism we too are baptized.

Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
in baptism you grafted us into the body of Christ,
promising us forgiveness of sin and newness of life.

But we fail to live as forgiven people.

We keep destructive habits and hold grudges.

**We allow our past to hold us hostage
and are reluctant to welcome newness.**

**In your loving-kindness
have mercy on us and free us from sin.**

**Remind us of the promises you have made to us in baptism
so that we may live as your people,
claimed in the waters of promise. Amen.**

(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

(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.)

Russell Gregory

Anthem: "Set Me as a Seal"

Richard Nance

Molly Wilkins-Reed, viola

Set me as a seal upon your heart.

Set me as a seal upon your heart.

As a seal upon your arm.

As a seal upon your arm.

For love is strong as strong as death.

For love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love.

Is strong as death.

Neither can the floods.

Neither can the floods drown it.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23
Common English Bible

15 Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that 16 I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, 19 and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. 20 God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, 21 far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. 22 God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, 23 which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

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

Sermon: A Spirit of Wisdom

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 475:** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Prayers of the People and 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.
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Call to Offering

Offertory: "Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me,
save that thou art;
thou my best thought,
by day or by night;
waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father;
thine own I would be,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now, and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys;
O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all. Amen.

arr. Paul Basler

❖ **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**

Sacrament of Baptism: Miles Stuart Hunter
Parents & Sister: Emily Rhodes Hunter, Stuart Hunter, and Eliza Hunter

Jonathan Anderson

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

❖ **BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD** ❖

❖ **Hymn 488: "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"**

**"I was there to hear your borning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."**

WATERLIFE

"When you heard the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

"In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

Congregational Meeting: 2023 Nominating Committee

Jim Rakes (elder, chair)
Andrew Warren

Heather Lawrence
Melinda Winslow (elder)

❖ **Benediction**

Postlude: "Adagio" from *Sonata Pathétique*

Beethoven



We welcome Dwight Bigler as the accompanist.

Citations: Call to Worship, Prayer of Approach, and Prayer of Confession from *The Worship Sourcebook*.

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: Brent Opell

Ushers: Tom Pospichal, Jack Call, Ben Corl, and Marcia Parks

Elder Serving Refreshments: Jonathan Anderson

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, (rhonda@blacksburgpres.org).

Text or QR Code to Give: To give by text, send keyword **bpcva** and an amount to phone number 779777 (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



This gathering will address biblical passages that relate to how Christians can understand and celebrate diverse gender identities, particularly including our transgender and non-binary siblings.

You do not need to have attended the first session to attend this one.

There will be light refreshments.

Presbyterian Women Circles, Together in Service: PW circles, led by Faith Circle, are inviting the congregation to participate in a Together in Service (TIS) mission project for the month of May. They are currently accepting new twin-size bed-in-a-bag contributions (*no individual or used bedding, please*) to be given to [Sleep in Heavenly Peace-NRV](#), an organization that builds and delivers fully furnished beds to children in our area who don't have one. (Bed-in-a-bag sets can be found on Amazon for under \$25.) Donations may be placed in tubs by either coat rack in the church through the end of May and will be collected by members of Faith Circle at that time.



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**



Pentecost Special Offering May 28, 2023: The Pentecost Offering supports our ministries with young people: 25% to Young Adult Volunteers, 25% to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium and 10% to children at risk, supporting improved education and safe havens. The remaining 40% is retained by BPC for our local community. The 2023 offering will be used to support the [Chauncey and Lucy Harmon Learning Center](#) at the Calfee Community and Cultural Center in Pulaski County. The Calfee Center's mission is to provide spaces for multi-generational social, educational, and cultural programming to families and individuals in the New River Valley and visitors to our region. The Harmon Learning Center aims to provide both quality early education, which has been shown to improve lifetime

academic achievement, and reliable childcare, which will allow parents to seek employment and improve their families' economic status. Our gift, depending upon the amount received, may contribute towards a diverse and inclusive library, sensory and manipulative play stations, musical and art supplies, cots for naptime, or lab tools for the science and discovery center.



THIS WEEK

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

Sun., May 21: Cents-Ability Offering

- Last week of children and youth Sunday School until September 10
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- Congregational Meeting – election of 2023 nominating committee
- After worship: Welcoming All – What the Bible Says About Gender, FH. See announcements for details.
- 5:00-7:00 pm: Youth Group, end of year party at the Drumhellers' home (3711 Indian Meadow Dr), FH if raining.
- 7:00 pm: Session meeting, FH

Mon., May 22:

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

Tues., May 23:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars with Pastor Sarah, Zoom
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH
- 5:30 pm: Creation Care Team meeting, HCR

Wed., May 24:

- 7:00 pm: Choir rehearsal, choir room (last rehearsal for season)
- 7:30 pm: Virtual Journey to Guatemala with CEDEPCA and Rev. Betsey Moe, our mission co-worker, discussing their work with adolescents to counter gender-based and domestic violence. See upcoming *MidWeek Updates* for details and how to register for this event.

Thur., May 25:

- 5:00-6:00: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Contact Melanie and Scott Smith at melscofam@gmail.com for details.
- 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle meeting, TBA

Sun., May 28: Pentecost Sunday

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., May 29: Memorial Day – church office is closed

Fri., June 2: 5:00 pm: First Fridays Peace Vigil, downtown post office, 118 N. Main, Bburg

Sun., June 11-Wed., June 14: Vacation Bible School

- 5:30-8:00 pm: Vacation Bible School, FH & various classrooms. Enjoy dinner and the theme opening together, then rotate to centers in small groups. Kids age 3 through rising 6th graders are invited to participate. Adults and older youth can help with decorating, meals, opening skits, music, as shepherds, and in Bible, games, crafts, and discovery centers. You can help set up or be onsite during the programming - whatever suits your schedule. Contact Susan Hunter at su-sanh@blacksburgpres.org for information.

