



June 18, 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 & Organist – Alice Brooks Sanders
Director of Music – Dr. Larry Wyatt
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
Virginia Tech Campus Outreach Minister – Rev. Kathy Carpenter
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
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 18, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: "I am as sure as I live that nothing is so near to me as God. God is nearer to me than I am to myself; my existence depends on the nearness and the presence of God." — Meister Eckhart

Prelude: "Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier"

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Susan Hunter

Centering Music: "Duo des fleurs" from *Lakme*

John Hassler and Ed Bridge, guitar

Leo Delibes
arr. Bergeron

❖ **Call to Worship**

Jonathan Anderson

If we don't look closely enough, it's easy to miss:
the movement of the Spirit,
the holiness in the ordinary,
the divine presence all around us and within us.

Help us see you, O God.

If we don't listen deeply enough, it's hard to hear:
the whispers of grace,
the melodies of mercy,
the lullabies of love the Spirit sings over us.

Help us hear your voice, Holy One.

May we recognize you in this time of worship.

May we know your love and feel your presence.

❖ **Hymn 395:** "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

LIEBSTER JESU

**Blessed Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you.
By your gospel true and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.**

**Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
Light of Light, from God proceeding.
Touch our lips and ears and heart;
help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
hear, and bless our prayers and praises.**

❖ **Prayer of Approach**

Loving God, you are closer than the breath in our lungs, nearer than the hearts beating in our chests. We praise you for your abiding presence, and we give thanks that you are with us throughout the ups and downs of this life. Surround us with your mercy. Enfold us in your love. Draw us ever closer to you, through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Call to Confession: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Hymn 475 (v. 3)

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.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit
upon us, within us, among us.

For our apathy in the presence of oppression,
forgive us.

For our careless words and thoughtless actions,
forgive us.

For our participation in systems that enslave,
forgive us.

When we limit the reach of your good news,
expand our minds and open our hearts.

When our mouths remain too tightly closed,
loosen our lips with songs of praise.

Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive our sins.
Hold us in your mercy, now and forever. 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

Anne Campbell

(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

Scripture Reading

John 14:15-23

Common English Bible

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. 17 This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

18 "I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. 19 Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

22 Judas (not Judas Iscariot) asked, "Lord, why are you about to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered, "Whoever loves me will keep my word. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

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

Sermon: God with Us: God Within Us

Rev. Jen Brothers

❖ **Hymn 286:** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

TRENTHAM

**Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Call to Offering

Offertory: "Wachet Auf"

J.S. Bach
arr. Newman

❖ **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**

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ **Hymn 366:** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

HYFRYDOL

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.**

Scroll down for more . . .

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

❖ **Benediction**

Postlude: "Toccata for Organ"

Scott Mitchell



We welcome Rev. Jen Brothers to worship today. Jen is the church leadership ministry specialist of the Presbytery of the Peaks. She has a bachelor's degree from JMU, a master's in counseling from VT, and a Master of Divinity from Union, Richmond. She loves the work of coaching and facilitating adaptive change. She counts it a great privilege to partner with faithful folks throughout the Presbytery to discern the leading of God's Spirit and grow the capacity to follow.

We welcome John Hassler and Ed Bridge as special musicians in worship today.

Liturgy by Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter.

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: Anne and Greg Campbell

Ushers: Greg and Anne Campbell, and Tom and Judy Pospichal

Elder Serving Refreshment: Marilyn Hutchins

The flowers for the sanctuary today were provided by Janet and Jim Rakes to the glory of God.

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).

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



Welcome to Alice Brooks Sanders, our new Director of Music and Organist, and her husband, Glenn Sanders: We are excited to welcome Alice to her first Sunday worship today as our new Director of Music and Organist. Alice was drawn to BPC because of our strong music program, as well as our theological commitments to justice, generosity, and inclusion. She has a long history of leading church music in PC(USA) congregations in Oklahoma and Tennessee. Alice has a Bachelor of Music in piano with a minor in organ from Baylor University, as well as a Master of Music in piano from the University of Oklahoma. In addition to her church work, Alice has performed in numerous collaborative recitals, maintained a private piano studio, taught preschool music classes, taught applied and classical piano at the college level, and worked as a staff accompanist at several universities. When not involved in musical pursuits, Alice is probably in the garden. She enjoys growing vegetables and has a particular interest in native plants and butterflies. She and her husband Glenn have four children and six grandchildren, with a sev-

enth on the way.

We are so grateful for Larry Wyatt's tenure with us as Director of Music. He will continue through the end of July; and thankfully, Larry will continue to be a part of our congregation. We will have a celebration of Amanda (whose last Sunday was June 11) and Larry's work on July 23, following worship. We hope you can join us in thanking them for their ministry among us over the last two and a half years.



Dinner with the Moes, today, June 18, 5:30, FH: Join our mission coworkers from Guatemala, Betsey and Eric Moe, to hear how their first few years in Guatemala have gone and their plans for the future!

Dinner will include various types of pupusas provided by Pupuseria Mari in Christiansburg, along with salads, and tres leches cake. It is thought that pupusas are from El Salvador but are now a popular dish throughout Central America and in the U.S. (To learn more, go to elmeson-santafe.com/the-origins-of-the-pupusa-a-traditional-salvadoran-dish).

There will be musical entertainment by Eric Moe who is a jazz trumpeter. Donations are appreciated to cover the cost of dinner. To find out more about Betsey and Eric Moe go to presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/betsey-and-eric-moe/.

Seeking Leaders: Do you know someone at BPC whom you admire? Whom you'd like to hear more from? Whom you've noticed is particularly gifted in a specific area? The nominating committee is seeking suggestions for members who would like to serve as elders. Any member is eligible to serve as an elder. If you'd like to suggest a name or indicate your own interest in serving, you can find a nomination form here: www.blacksburgpres.org/elders. You can also find a paper version in the Gathering Space window which you can complete and then place on Rhonda's desk in the church office. You may also contact any of the members of the nominating committee: Heather Lawrence, Jim Rakes (chair), Andrew Warren, Melinda Winslow, and Pastor Sarah (ex officio).

THIS WEEK

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

Sun., June 18: Cents-Ability Offering

- 5:30 pm: Gathering and dinner with Betsey and Eric Moe, our mission partners with CEDEPCA, FH. See announcements for details.
- No Session meeting in June. Session will meet on July 16, 7:00 pm, HCR.

Mon., June 19: Juneteenth – church office is closed

Tues., June 20:

- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH
- 5:00 pm: Men of the Church Summer Outing. Join them for dinner in Roanoke and then to a Salem Red Sox game. Contact Craig Woolsey at cwoolsey@vt.edu for information.

Wed., June 21:

- 4:00 pm: Malawi Team meeting, HCR

Thur., June 22:

- 5:00-6:00 pm: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to show up at the meeting time or contact the church office.

Sun., June 25:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., June 26:

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

June 27-June 30: Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference

Sun., July 2: Communion Sunday

Thursdays in July, 7:00-8:00 pm: 2023 Summer Arts Festival, Thursday Night Indoor Concerts, BPC Sanctuary. Free admission. (More information about these performances and other events can be found here: performingarts.vt.edu)

- 07/06: Aurora Martin, soprano, and Richard Masters, piano
- 07/13: Bach and Friends with Fiona Hughes, violin
- 07/20: Alma Ensemble
- 07/27: Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* – Community Sing, conducted by Dr. Larry Wyatt. (To participate in the community sing, visit bit.ly/SummerArtsHaydn23)

Sun., July 9:

- 4:00 pm: Interfaith Reading Group, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. BPC is excited to be partnering with several other congregations and the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center to begin an interfaith reading group. Our first book will be *Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* by Rachel Mikva. The initial meeting will be Sunday, July 9, at 4pm at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Road, and we recommend that you read the first chapter for the first gathering.

July 9-15: Montreat Youth Conference
