



June 25, 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.

❖ *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
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 25, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: "We seem to think that God speaks by seconding the ideas we've already adopted, but God nearly always catches us by surprise. If it's God's Spirit blowing, someone ends up having feathers ruffled in an unforeseen way. God tends to confound, astonish, and flabbergast." – Sue Monk Kidd, *When the Heart Waits*

Prelude: "Simple Gifts"

Shaker melody
set by Patricia Lou Harris

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord"

HAL'LUHU
Israeli melody

❖ **Call to Worship**

Craig Woolsey

Always, your goodness surprises me, O God;
yet, there it is – again and again:
**a quiet moment in a hammock,
a long laugh with a friend,
a summer tomato perfectly ripe, bursting with flavor.**

Always, your grace surprises me, Lord;
yet, there it is – again and again:
**a sigh of release,
a second chance,
a fresh perspective.**

Forever, your faithfulness surprises me, Holy One;
yet, there it is – again and again:
**a song,
a presence,
an old, familiar story.**

Again and again, the joy of the Lord meets us
where we hadn't even thought to look.

❖ **Hymn 385:** "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

OLD HUNDREDTH

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.
Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk; he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

❖Prayer of Approach

Keep us on our toes, God of surprises.

Startle us with your goodness.

Astonish us with your mercy.

Shake us up whenever we think we have things all figured out.

Make a way for us when there seems to be no way.

Forge a path ahead of us when we can see no further than our own two feet.

Possibilize the impossible.

Save us from the depths of our despair,

and help us to hope and trust in your promises. 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

You tell us your plans, O God,

you speak words of blessing over us,

yet we're quick to say "that can't be right."

You invite us into hope,

dare us to trust in your goodness,

yet we spiral into cynicism.

You tell us that tomorrow will be better,

that all things will be made new,

that our lives are pregnant with possibility,

yet we doubt your promises.

Stretch our imaginations, Lord.

Remind us of your power.

Broaden our vision.

Lead us beyond our wildest expectations. 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

Susan Hunter

(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

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7, Common English Bible

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day's heat. 2 He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. 3 He said, "Sirs, if you would be so kind, don't just pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. 5 Let me offer you a little bread so you

will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way – since you have visited your servant.” They responded, “Fine. Do just as you have said.” 6 So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, “Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!” 7 Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. 8 Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate. 9 They said to him, “Where’s your wife Sarah?” And he said, “Right here in the tent.” 10 Then one of the men said, “I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!” Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I’m no longer able to have children and my husband’s old. 13 The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Me give birth? At my age?’ 14 Is anything too difficult for the Lord? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son.” 15 Sarah lied and said, “I didn’t laugh,” because she was frightened. But he said, “No, you laughed.”

The Lord was attentive to Sarah just as he had said, and the Lord carried out just what he had promised her. 2 She became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Abraham when he was old, at the very time God had told him. 3 Abraham named his son – the one Sarah bore him – Isaac. 4 Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old just as God had commanded him. 5 Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. 6 Sarah said, “God has given me laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me.” 7 She said, “Who could have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse sons? But now I’ve given birth to a son when he was old!”

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

Sermon: Gracious Surprises

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 691:** “Lord, When I Came into This Life”

LAND OF REST

**Lord, when I came into this life
you called me by my name;
today I come, commit myself,
responding to your claim.**

**Within the circle of the faith,
as member of your cast,
I take my place with all the saints
of future, present, past.**

**In all the tensions of my life,
between my faith and doubt,
let your great Spirit give me hope,
sustain me, lead me out.**

**So help me in my unbelief
and let my life be true:
feet firmly planted on the earth,
my sights set high on you.**

Confirmation

Susan Hunter

Heidi Swartzwelder

Sophia Warren

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.
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Call to Offering

Offertory: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

set by Joseph Martin

❖Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Hymn 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

❖Prayer of Dedication

❖BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖Hymn 313: "Lord, Make Us More Holy"

LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY

Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy,
until we meet again:
holy, holy, holy,
until we meet again.

Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving,
until we meet again:
loving, loving, loving,
until we meet again.

Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient,
until we meet again:
patient, patient, patient,
until we meet again.

Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful,
until we meet again:
faithful, faithful, faithful,
until we meet again.

❖Benediction

Postlude: "Morning Dance"

John Leavitt
based on Praetorius' *Musae Sionae*, 1609



Liturgy by Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter. Art: *Joy - Collage of Life*, by René Cheng, CC BY-SA 4.0, creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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: Sandy Power, Sarah and Craig Woolsey, Bill Hendricks

Elder Serving Refreshment: Marilyn Hutchins

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).

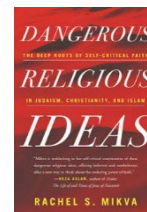


Text or QR Code to Give: To give by text, send keyword **bpcva** and an amount to phone number 779777 (e.g., bpcva 20). If it is your first time, there will be a brief registration process. To give via QR code, use the camera app on your phone and follow instructions. Thank you for your support of BPC's ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

Interfaith Reading Group, beginning July 9, 4:00 pm: 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.



Savoring Sacred Music, Sundays, July 9, 16, 23, 9:00 am, in Westminster: Larry Wyatt will be leading a three-week class on sacred music. Each week will focus on a different element of appreciating and understanding classical music used in worship (see topics for each class below). Whether you are a musician or a listener, well-versed in musical theory or completely new to the dynamics of music, this class will deepen your spiritual engagement with sacred music.

- July 9: Handel's *Messiah*
- July 16: Expression in Music - It's Not Just a Pretty Tune
- July 23: A Very Big Picture - History of Hymns

THIS WEEK

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

Sun., June 25:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC.

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

Tues., June 27:

- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH
- 4:00: Community Ministry meeting, Zoom

Thur., June 29:

- 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., July 2: Communion Sunday

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues., July 4: Independence Day – church office is closed

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. Ben Wyatt will be playing cello as part of this performance.
- 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)

Sundays, July 9, 16, & 23, 9:00 am: Make a Joyful Noise! Savoring Sacred Music, class led by Larry Wyatt, WM. See announcements for details.

Sun., July 9:

- 9:00 am: Savoring Sacred Music Class: Handel's *Messiah*, led by Larry Wyatt, WM
- 4:00 pm: Interfaith Reading Group, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. See announcements for details.

Sunday – Saturday, July 9-15: Montreat Youth Conference