



August 6, 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 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](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).*

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❖ *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  
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 6, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

**Thought for Meditation:**

"God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing." — 1 Corinthians 1:27-28

**Prelude:** "Like a River Glorious"

Judy McCord, handbells

set by Christine Anderson

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles

**Centering Music:** "Let All Things Now Living"

ASH GROVE

❖ **Call to Worship**

The Maker of the Cosmos  
is so vast we can scarcely comprehend.

**We measure in light years and endless exponents  
and still can't find the end of You.**

The Creator of all life  
is so close we almost can't believe it.

**In atoms that came from stars and now circulate in our bodies,  
and the particles within those atoms,  
and the particles within those particles—  
You are in it all.**

You, God of Great and Small,  
embrace us, all of us—

**the big and strong, the small and weak,  
those of us who race with the wind in our hair,  
and those of us who rely on others to wheel us into the sun,  
those of us who have been met with success at every turn,  
and those of us for whom all seems to have turned to dust—**

You choose us all,  
rejoice in us all,  
big and small alike.

**So we come to rejoice, and we come to weep.  
We come to sing, and we come to hold silence.  
We come to worship  
and find our home once more in your endless love.**

❖ **Hymn 12: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"**

ST. DENIO

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

❖ **Psalm of the Day**

Psalm 145

I will praise your greatness, O God;  
I will bless your name for ever.  
Every day I will praise you  
and honor your name without ceasing.

**God, you are great and deserve our praise;  
your glory is beyond our understanding.  
Each generation shall speak of your worth  
and celebrate your goodness.  
I will meditate on your wonderful work  
and consider what you have done.**

God is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and constant in love.  
God's goodness and compassion  
are meant for all creation.  
God keeps every promise,  
God's ways are always gracious.

**God lifts up those who are falling  
and raises those bowed down.  
All eyes look to you, O God,  
who supplies every creature's need.  
God, whose ways are just and kind,  
draws near to all believers.  
Our mouths will sing out praise.  
God's name be blessed forever.**

**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**

*(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**

Elizabeth Day

*(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

Holy Spirit,  
You're present all the time.  
**Awaken us to that reality,  
so that we may  
see you,  
feel you,  
know you,  
follow you.  
Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

For the Wisdom of God in scripture,  
for the Wisdom of God among us,  
for the Wisdom of God within us,  
**thanks be to God.**

Genesis 25:19-26

**Sermon:** Gracious Choice

Rev. Sarah Wiles

## ❖Hymn 293: "Loving Spirit"

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be,  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.**

OMNI DIE

**Like a mother you enfold me,  
hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body,  
form me of your flesh and bone.**

**Like a father you protect me,  
teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
let me see the world from high.**

**Friend and lover, in your closeness  
I am known and held and blessed:  
in your promise is my comfort,  
in your presence I may rest.**

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be,  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.**

## Call to Offering

**Offertory:** "His Eye is On the Sparrow"

set by Sandra T. Ford

## ❖Doxology

**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!**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
Hymn 609

## ❖Prayer of Dedication

### Celebration of Communion

*(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.)*

Rev. Sarah Wiles

## ❖Hymn 515: "I Come with Joy"

I come with joy, a child of God,  
 forgiven, loved, and free,  
 the life of Jesus to recall,  
 in love laid down for me,  
 in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
 to find, as all are fed,  
 the new community of love  
 in Christ's communion bread,  
 in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
 each proud division ends.  
 The love that made us, makes us one,  
 and strangers now are friends,  
 and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
 unseen, but ever near,  
 is in such friendship better known,  
 alive among us here,  
 alive among us here.

Together met, together bound  
 by all that God has done,  
 we'll go with joy, to give the world  
 the love that makes us one,  
 the love that makes us one.

## 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 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.

## Sharing of Bread and Cup

## Prayer After Supper

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

## ❖Hymn 748: "Go with Us, Lord"

*(Congregation will sing through twice.)*

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
 through this and every coming day,  
 that in your Spirit strong and true  
 our lives may be our gift to you.

TALLIS' CANON

## ❖Benediction

Postlude: "Immortal, Invisible"

set by Michael Burkhardt



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Citations: Psalm of the day from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*.

Cover: Swati twins enchanted by water and a dragonfly at the famous "Cuddle Puddle" hot springs in Eswatini. (DAL81, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons)

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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 and ministry of this community.

**Serving:**   **Church Opener:** Brent Opell  
**Ushers:** Darrell Bosch, and Gillian, Natasha, and Todd Lowe  
**Elder Serving Refreshments:** Paula Stith

**The flowers for the sanctuary today** are provided by Lois Price to the glory of God and in celebration of her birthday.

**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 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.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BPC Doors Being Re-Keyed:** We have shifted to a code-based entry system for the parking lot door and Eakin Street door. Currently, you can only unlock those doors if you have a code. Within two weeks, all other external doors to BPC will be re-keyed, and entrance to the building will be solely with codes via the parking lot and Eakin St. *Please note:* The weekday entrance on Eakin St. will continue to be unlocked during regular business hours as usual. The various doors that are usually unlocked on Sunday mornings will remain the same, too. If you currently have a key and use it frequently, check in with your ministry team leader to get a code. More details are available in the *MidWeek* email. If you have any questions, contact Rhonda at [rhonda@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:rhonda@blacksburgpres.org).

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**Next meeting of the Interfaith Reading Group will be today, Sunday, 08/06/23 at 4:00 pm.** Location: Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1301 Gladewood Dr. We will discuss chapters 5 and 6 of *Dangerous Religious Ideas* by Rachel Mikva.

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*Scroll down for more . . .*

**I'M GONNA' SING WHEN THE SPIRIT SAYS SING . . .  
AND RING WHEN THE SPIRIT SAYS RING!**



**Announcing a potluck for ringers and singers --  
"newbies and oldbies" invited!**

It's time to begin tuning your vocal cords for adult choir and your wrists for handbell choir. All who have an interest are welcome. We will start the year with a potluck and social **gathering on Wednesday, August 16th, at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Ham and beverages will be provided. Please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert to share. (A simple bag of potato chips counts!) This is your opportunity to meet and welcome Alice Sanders, hear about her plans for the choirs, and share your input. Spouses are welcome to attend. If you have friends who might be interested in singing or ringing, please share this invitation with them!

So, whether you are a long-time member or are just curious about playing bells or singing, please join us to see what has kept some of us involved for so long. We love to welcome new folks!

If you want more information before we meet, Alice will be happy to answer questions. Her email is [alice@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:alice@blacksburgpres.org). The first rehearsals for each group will be **Wednesday, August 23rd: 5:30 for bells and 7:00 for choir**. We hope you join us!

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THIS WEEK

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

**Sun., Aug. 6:** Communion Sunday

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
- 4:00 pm: Interfaith Reading Group, UUC. See announcements for details.

**Tues., Aug. 8:**

- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

**Thur. & Fri., Aug. 10 & 11:**

- The church parking lot will be undergoing maintenance with sealing and painting on these two days and will not be available. The weekday entrance on Eakin St. will be open during business hours as usual.

**Thur., Aug. 10:**

- 3:30-4:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom
- 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 Melanie or Scott Smith at [melscofam@gmail.com](mailto:melscofam@gmail.com).

**Sun., Aug. 13:**

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wed., Aug. 16:**

- 6:00 pm: Choir Potluck Social Gathering, FH. See announcements for details.

**Thur., Aug. 17:**

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries meeting, Zoom

**Sat., Aug. 19:**

- 2:00 pm: Memorial Service for Evelyn Wolf with reception to follow

**Wed., Aug. 23:**

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

**Sat., Aug. 26:**

- 4:00-6:30 pm: Dialogue on Race Summer Summit, Christiansburg Huckleberry Park, 300 Peppers Ferry Rd., NW. For more info: [thecommunitygroup.org](http://thecommunitygroup.org)

**Sun., Aug. 27:**

- 4:00-7:00 pm: End-of-Summer Shindig, Nellie's Cave Park. More details to come.

**Sat., Sept. 9:**

- 9:00-1:00 pm: Church hike! More details to come.

**Sun., Sept. 10:** Kick-Off Sunday!

- 9:00 am: Sunday School for children, youth, and adults begins. More details to come.
- 10:30: Worship Service. Season of Creation begins and will continue through the next two Sundays. More details to come.
- After worship: Season of Creation film – *Chasing Climate Zero* (NOVA-PBS), FH

**Sun., Sept. 17:**

- 3:00 pm: Mark your calendar! Music for Mission Series begins with its first concert: Geoffrey Heard, violinist, and Anna Petrova, pianist, SNC. Free admission with offering taken to support the Women's Resource Center. More details to come.