



August 13, 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

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
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 13, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: "Therefore, dear [friend], love your solitude and try to sing out with the pain it causes you . . . and don't expect any understanding; but believe in a love that is being stored up for you like an inheritance, and have faith that in this love there is a strength and a blessing so large that you can travel as far as you wish without having to step outside it." — Rainer Maria Rilke

Prelude: "Partita in E Major: Gavotte en Rondeau"

J.S. Bach

Minh Nguyen, violin

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in this Place"

Lanny Wolfe

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings;
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

❖ **Call to Worship**

Mary Harder

Come now to this place of rest and renewal;
let your spirit rejoice in the presence of God.

**We sing of God's steadfast love for all people.
We pray for God's peace to dwell in our hearts.
We trust that God will keep God's promises.**

God strengthens those who are weak
and comforts those who are broken-hearted.

**God's light is the life for all.
We bring our whole hearts to worship!**

❖ **Hymn 403:** "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

UNSER HERRSCHER

**Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace.**

**Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heaven on earth must be;
to my heart O enter thou;
let it be thy temple now.**

**Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee;
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee,
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.**

❖ **Psalm of the Day**

For you, my God, I wait
with hope born of the Word.

**Like sleepless ones who long to dream
I wait and call my Lord.**

Lord, hear my pleading voice,
and let me know you hear!

**As sleepless ones feel rest approach,
I know my God is near.**

If you should list my faults,
the sins of heart and hand,

**like sleepless ones who groan at dawn
I know I could not stand!**

For even from the deep
I know you hear my cries.

**Like sleepless ones who dream at last,
I ease my weary eyes.**

And once my soul is still,
in you I find my rest,

**at peace as though a child upon
a gentle mother's breast.**

O God, you are my hope;
I know that you forgive.

**Your love redeems me from the depths
so I may rise and live.**

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

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

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

Genesis 28:10-19a

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and set out for Haran. 11 He reached a certain place and spent the night there. When the sun had set, he took one of the stones at that place and put it near his head. Then he lay down there. 12 He dreamed and saw a raised staircase, its foundation on earth and its top touching the sky, and God's messengers were ascending and descending on it. 13 Suddenly the Lord was standing on it and saying, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will become like the dust of the earth; you will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. Every family of earth will be blessed because of you and your descendants. 15 I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done everything that I have promised you." 16 When Jacob woke from his sleep, he thought to himself, The Lord is definitely in this place, but I didn't know it. 17 He was terrified and thought, This sacred place is awesome. It's none other than God's house and the entrance to heaven. 18 After Jacob got up early in the morning, he took the stone that he had put near his head, set it up as a sacred pillar, and poured oil on the top of it. 19 He named that sacred place Bethel.

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.

Sermon: Gracious Promise

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn:** "As Jacob with Travel was Weary"

JACOB'S LADDER

As Jacob with travel was weary one day,

At night on a stone for a pillow he lay,

He was in a vision a ladder so high,

That its foot was on earth, and its top in the sky.

Refrain

Hallelujah to Jesus, who died on the tree,

And hath rais'd up a ladder of mercy for me,

And hath rais'd up a ladder of mercy for me.

This ladder is long, it is strong and well-made,

Has stood hundreds of years and is not yet decayed;

Many millions have climbed it and reached Zion's hill,

And thousands by faith are climbing it still. (Refrain)

Come let us ascent; all may climb it who will,

For the Angels of Jacob are guarding it still:

And remember each step, that by faith we pass o'er,

Some Prophet or Martyr hath trod it before. (Refrain)

And when we arrive at the haven of rest

We shall hear the great words "Come up hither, ye blest,

Here are regions of light, here are mansions of bliss:

"O who would not climb such a ladder as this? (Refrain)

Confirmation

Jaya Ericksen

Susan Hunter

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: "Sonata in E Minor"

Niccolo Paganini

❖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: "O God of Bethel"

DUNDEE

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed,
Who through this weary pilgrimage
Hast all thy servants led,

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of past ages, be the God
Of each succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life
Our wandering footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread,
And raiment fit provide.

O spread Thy covering wings around
Till all our wanderings cease,
And at our God's beloved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.

❖Benediction

Postlude: "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

Mark Hayes



Today we welcome Minh Nguyen, a student at Blacksburg High School, as guest violinist.

Citations: Call to Worship by Rev. Jenny McDevitt. Psalm adaptation from *Glory to God, 791*. Music: used with permission under One License #A-701634. All rights reserved.

Art: *This is the Day* by Charlie Brouwer (sculptor) and Jennifer Hand (painter). "The idea of this work is to lift up the eyes, hearts, minds, and souls of those who see the beauty of this world and are inspired by it to seek truths beyond it." (Commissioned by BPC Arts Ministry, 2008, installation: Westminster Library)

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: Chris Lawrence, Heidi Swartzwelder, and Marcia Parks

Elder Serving Refreshments: Kyle White

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* and website prayer list to rhonda@blacksburgpres.org.

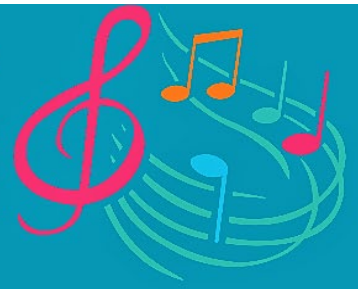


Text or QR Code to Give: To give by text, send keyword **bpcva** and an amount to phone number 77977 (e.g., bpcva 20). If it is your first time, there will be a brief registration process. To give via QR code, use the camera app on your phone and follow instructions. Thank you for your support of BPC's ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weather Delay for Parking Lot Changes: Due to the rain this past week, the paving and painting of the parking lot had to be postponed. The plan now is for it to be done on Monday and Tuesday, August 21 and 22. Please note that the traffic flow in the parking lot lane closest to the playground will be reversed for the following Sunday, 08/27. This change is part of a larger project that will create more designated accessible parking spaces as well as provide a safer path for children running to the playground.

**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. 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!



Presbyterian Woman Bible Study Guides are available! If you would like a study guide, please see Janet Rakes after worship today or the next two Sundays (August 20 or 27) to get one. Cost is \$10.00 each. If none of these times work for you, please contact Janet at jimjanetrakes@comcast.net



THIS WEEK

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

Sun., Aug. 13:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC

Tues., Aug. 15:

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

Wed., Aug. 16:

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

Thur., Aug. 17:

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries, 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.

Sat., Aug. 19:

- 2:00 pm: Memorial Service for Evelyn Wolf with dessert, FH

Sun., Aug. 20:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
- 12:00-1:00 pm: Banner Team meeting, WM
- 4:00: Interfaith Reading Group, chapters 7-9 of *Dangerous Religious Ideas* by Rachel Mikva. Quaker Friends Meeting House (404 Mt. Tabor Rd)
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed., Aug. 23:

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

Thur., Aug. 24:

- 7:30 pm: Faith Circle meeting, Peg Warren's home (1201 Highland Cr.)

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

Sun., Aug. 27:

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

Fri., Sept. 1:

- 5:00 pm: First Fridays Peace Vigil, downtown post office, 118 N. Main St., Bburg

Mon., Sept. 4: Church office is closed, Labor Day

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

- 9:00 am: Sunday School for children, youth, and adults begins. Gather in the sanctuary.
- 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:

- 4:00 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.
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