



September 10, 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  
SEASON OF CREATION  
FLOURISHING FOR ALL: SPIRITUAL POSTURES FOR LIFE  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

**Thought for Meditation:** "Optimism and hope are not the same. Optimism is the belief that the world is changing for the better; hope is the belief that, together, we can make the world better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope an active one. It needs no courage to be an optimist, but it takes a great deal of courage to hope. The Hebrew Bible is not an optimistic book. It is, however, one of the great literatures of hope." —Jonathan Sacks

**Prelude:** "Baroque Expressions"

Martha Mier

Linda King, piano

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Minute for Music for Mission**

Larry Wyatt

**Centering Music:** "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

HEAR MY PRAYER

*(Cantor sings once, joined by congregation the second time.)*

Hymn 471 (v 2)

Larry Wyatt, cantor

**The Lord is my song;  
the Lord is my praise:  
all my hope comes from God.  
The Lord is my song;  
the Lord is my praise:  
God, the well-spring of life.**

❖ **Call to Worship**

Darrell Bosch

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

This is the day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Rejoicing in this day, we say welcome,

**you who still have dirt under your fingernails**

**from that one garden bed you needed to tend before you came to church.**

Welcome,

**you whose feet will never forget**

**the feel of wet grass between your toes and the chill of mountain streams.**

Welcome,

**you who marvel at creation,**

**and despair at the damage we've done.**

This is a space and time where we can

celebrate beauty,

lose ourselves in awe,

grow in gratitude,

lift up lament,

and be re-rooted in the Source of Life

who makes all things new.

**Come, let us worship!**

❖ **Hymn 32: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"**

I sing the mighty power of God  
 that made the mountains rise,  
 that spread the flowing seas abroad  
 and built the lofty skies.  
 I sing the wisdom that ordained  
 the sun to rule the day.  
 The moon shines full at God's command,  
 and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord  
 who filled the earth with food.  
 God formed the creatures through the Word,  
 and then pronounced them good.  
 Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
 where'er I turn my eye,  
 if I survey the ground I tread,  
 or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below  
 but makes thy glories known.  
 And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
 by order from thy throne,  
 while all that borrows life from thee  
 is ever in thy care,  
 and everywhere that we can be,  
 thou, God, art present there.

❖ **Prayer of Approach**

God of the mountains and valleys,  
 oceans and streams,  
 cities and towns,  
 we open our hearts to you.

**Hear our prayers and hymns of praise.**

**Fill us with hope.**

**Gently heal our brokenness and touch our hearts with your love.**

Open our hearts to your presence and help us love you every day of our lives.

**Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

Made in God's image  
 to live in loving communion with our Maker,  
 we are appointed earthkeepers and caretakers  
 to tend the earth, enjoy it, and love our neighbors.  
 God uses our skills  
 for the unfolding and well-being of the world  
 so that creation and all who live in it may flourish.

**But often we neglect our task.**

**Recalling our purpose**

**brings us face to face with the ways we've gotten off track,  
 and gives us the chance to begin again.**

**Trusting the One who made us and calls us good,**

**let us confess the ways we wound our lives and the life of the world.**

## Prayer of Confession

God of all creation,  
you loved us into being,  
yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation.  
We confess that we exploit the gifts you place around us  
and dominate the richness of the natural order.

### Forgive our greedy grasping.

We confess our part in the devastation of our planet home,  
mirrored in the violence of cities, and the brokenness of hearts.

### Forgive and restore us.

Nurturing God,  
remind us of other ways to live and of a place called home,  
where creation reflects your goodness and each thing lives in balance.

### Give us the hope we need to change and start again.

Come and find us, set us right again, and take us home. Amen.

(Silent prayer)

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear and believe the good news:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!  
Thanks be to God!

### Music: "The Peace of the Earth Be with You"

(Choir sings once, joined by the congregation the second time)

Guatemalan trad.  
arr. John Bell



The peace of the earth be with you, the  
La paz de la tie-rra es - té con ti - go, la




peace of the heav - ens, too. The peace of the riv - ers  
paz de los cie-los tam - bién. La paz de los rí-os es -



be with you, the peace of the o - ceans, too:  
té con ti - go, la paz de los ma-res tam - bién. La



deep peace fall - ing o - ver you,  
paz pro - fun - da ca - yen - do so - bre ti. La



God's peace grow - ing in you.  
paz pro - fun - da cre - cien - do en ti.

❖ **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 & Recognizing Milestones**

Susan Hunter

*(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**

**Scripture Reading**

Jeremiah 32 (selected verses)

**Sermon:** Posture of Hope

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 798: "All with Joyful Exultation"**

YISRAEL V'ORAITA

**Refrain:**

All with joyful exultation  
let us sing to God our praise;  
to the rock of our salvation  
loud hosannas raise.

Lord, we sing with joyful voices;  
your great power can lift and save;  
by your healing touch, revive us;  
life restore beyond the grave. (Refrain)

Praise to you, our sure salvation,  
you, the Holy One above.  
End the night so dimmed by anguish,  
with your light of peace and love. (Refrain)

Change our sorrow to rejoicing;  
clothe with gladness all despair;  
cause unsteady feet that stumble  
now to dance beneath your care. (Refrain)

Dry our tears we shed in mourning;  
give us steadfast hope always;  
fill our hearts with expectation;  
fill our songs with thanks and praise. (Refrain)

**A Ritual of Renewal of Baptism**

**Music:** "Behold, I Make All Things New"

John Bell

*(Cantor sings once, then congregation joins for repeated singing.)*

Be - hold, be - hold, I make all things new, be -  
gin-ning with you and start - ing from to - day. Be -  
hold, be - hold, I make all things new, my  
prom-ise is true, for I am Christ, the way.

## Call to Offering

**Offertory:** "The Apple Tree"

Scottish folk tune  
arr. K. Lee Scott

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green;  
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree.  
His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.  
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought;  
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.  
I'm weary with my former toil; here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.  
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

--Anon., Collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784

## ❖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.**

OLD HUNDREDTH

## ❖Prayer of Dedication

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

## ❖Hymn 765 (sing twice): "May the God of Hope Go with Us"

ARGENTINA

**May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

## ❖Benediction

**Postlude:** "Tales from Hungary"

Martha Mier



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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:** Ben Corl  
**Ushers:** Phil Bailey, and Gillian, Natasha, and Todd Lowe  
**Serving Refreshments:** Melinda Winslow

**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

### The Season of Creation | Flourishing for All: Spiritual Postures for Life

**Sept. 10: Posture of Hope**, Jeremiah 32. After worship, screening of *Chasing Carbon Zero* (NOVA 2023). Lunch will be served.

**Sept. 17: Posture of Simplicity**, 1 Timothy 6: 6-10, 17-19. After worship, there will be a Creation Care Fair. See below for details.

**Sept. 24: Posture of Mindfulness**, Deuteronomy 30:15-25.



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**Collection for New River Valley Reuse Center:** We are also collecting a few items for the New River Creative Reuse Center, which will be featured at one of our booths at the Creation Care Fair on Sept. 17. Bring items that you would ordinarily put in the trash and see how teachers and other art and activity leaders can put them to use. For a list of items we will collect that day, see the newsletter, the *MidWeek* email, or the label on the box in the office entry hallway. If you have items on the list that you would like to bring in advance, that box will be available until the day of the fair.

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### Creation Care Fair, Sept. 17, following worship, Fellowship Hall. For all ages!

We are offering 8 booths of activities and information on caring for creation. Bring your whole household to choose from the following:

- find out about home solar power
- make a seed pod of native easy-to-grow flowers for your garden
- learn the benefits of native plants
- play a game to help you get your facts straight about climate change
- learn what invasive plants to watch out for and how to identify them
- get info about public policy issues which benefit the environment and how to advocate for them
- try out some ways to turn trash into art
- review your recycling knowledge (the rules seem to change all the time)

Snacks will be provided to hold you until lunchtime!

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**All-Church Hike, Sept. 23, 9:30 am:** Come enjoy time in nature on our congregational hike. We will gather at the shelter by the Meadowbrook entrance of Heritage Park (2801 Meadowbrook Dr.). There will be two outings to choose from: a short nature walk and a longer hike. Some folks will also stay at the shelter and visit. Once everyone returns, we'll head over to Rising Silo (2351 Glade Rd.) at 11:30 for a drink or bite to eat.

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## THIS WEEK

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

### Sun., Sept. 10: Season of Creation – Posture of Hope

- After worship: Season of Creation film, *Chasing Climate Zero* (NOVA-PBS). Lunch served, FH
- 4:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, Our Saviour Lutheran Church (1945 Cambria St., NE, Christiansburg). Read through chapter 11.
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group family potluck dinner and planning meeting, FH
- 7:00: Sunday Night Book Study, HCR. A thoughtful conversation about faith and doubt as we revisit the classic *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory.

### Mon., Sept. 11:

- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle meeting, FH. Newcomers are welcome.
- 6:00: Hildegard Circle meeting. Newcomers are welcome. Jan McGilliard's home (305 Country Club Dr., SE, Bburg). Discuss lesson 1 from *Sacred Encounters* study book.

### Tues., Sept. 12:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Meets weekly by Zoom to pray for one another & study the sermon text for the week. Led by Pastor Sarah (contact for link).
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

**Wed., Sept. 13:**

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

**Thur., Sept. 14:**

- 3:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00 pm: Thursday Hangout Hour, Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to just show up.

**Sun., Sept. 17:** Season of Creation – Posture of Simplicity & Cents-Ability Sunday

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
  - 9:00: Adult Sunday School, FH. Death with Dignity: Living Our Faith in End-of-Life Planning. No matter your age or stage of life, you will find spiritual meaning and growth in this class. Led by Anne Campbell, Bill Hendricks, and Pastors Sarah and Emily.
  - 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
  - After worship: Creation Care Fair. See announcements for details.
  - 4:00 pm: Music for Mission series begins. See insert for details.
  - 5:30-7:30 pm: Youth Group, FH
  - 7:00: Called Session meeting, Zoom.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon., Sept. 18:**

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR
- 5:30-6:45: Advent Season meeting, HCR
- 7:00: Transforming, WM. (This group will read *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* by Austen Hartke and explore welcoming and affirming Christian perspectives for all genders. Led by Pastor Sarah. Meeting dates: 09/18 & 10/2, 10/16, & 10/30. (Book will be available in the church office by middle of next week at a requested donation of \$20. If cost is a barrier, please take one as a gift.)

**Sat., Sept. 23:**

- 9:30 am: All-Church Hike. See announcements for details.

**Sun., Sept. 24:** Season of Creation – Posture of Mindfulness

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC