

# BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
SEPTEMBER 17

---

We are a community that welcomes all.  
We are committed to experiencing beautiful worship,  
nurturing lifelong growth,  
and pursuing justice and love in the world.

---



## SEASON OF CREATION FLOURISHING FOR ALL: SPIRITUAL POSTURES FOR LIFE

---

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

---

❖ Please rise in body or in spirit. We invite you to join in with the words in **bold**.

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

**Thought for Meditation:** “Living simply makes loving simple.” — bell hooks

**Prelude:** “By the Still Waters”

Amy Beach

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Centering Music (sing three times):** “Come All You People”

UYAI MOSE

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;  
come now and worship the Lord.**

Hymn 388

❖ **Call to Worship**

Elizabeth Day

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!**

Come, and be reminded:

**We are here to remember the heart of the child  
who gloried in the ripples of a rock thrown in a creek,  
who stopped to examine every single roly-poly,  
and gasped at their first glimpse of fireflies.**

Come, and be reminded:

**We are here to remember the vastness of creation,  
our place within it,  
and our complete dependence  
on each leaf, creek, and bug.**

Come, and be reminded:

**We are here to remember that we are made for joy,  
built for gratitude,  
and tuned to join the harmony of all creation.  
We are here to worship!**

❖ **Hymn 17: “Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!”**

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

**Sing praise to God, you heavens!  
Sing praise, each shining light!  
Sing, planets in your orbits;  
sing, stars all burning bright!  
Sing praise, you winds and tempests,  
you driving rain and snow!  
Sing, clouds that race and billow  
and shadow earth below!**

**Sing praises, all you creatures  
in whom God takes delight:  
you whales that roam the oceans,  
you eagles in your flight!  
Sing praise, you sheep on hillsides,  
you cattle in the stall!  
Though wordless, sing your praises  
to God who made you all!**

**Sing praise, O earth, sing praises!  
Sing praises, hill and plain,  
you mountains thrusting skyward,  
you valleys ripe with grain!  
Sing praise, each fragrant flower;  
your fairest hues display.  
Sing praise, you trees of autumn  
in glowing, glad array!**

**Sing praises now, God’s people;  
your gift of speech employ  
to praise the Lord, your Maker,  
with thankfulness and joy!  
Sing with the whole creation;  
a cosmic chorus raise:  
“To God alone be glory  
and everlasting praise!”**

## ❖Prayer of Approach

Creator God, we praise you for this world.

**As we continue to learn more of the vastness of your cosmos  
and the smallest particles of each atom,  
we stand in awe of the great harmony of it all.**

Open our eyes and ears that we may take delight  
in the beauty and variety of sky and sea,  
of desert and mountain, of plants and flowers,  
of birds and fish, of creatures large and small,  
and of humankind, from the dust, filled with your breath.

**We praise you for the world you made, maintain,  
and give to us to care for and enjoy. Amen.**

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Source of Life, you have provided for us a creation filled with food and water,  
a universe rich with energy and resources, and charged us to live in harmony with all you have created.

**But we admit that we have often spoiled your gifts, we have put material possessions ahead of everything else, and  
we have abused the environment you have provided for us. Forgive us and make us better caretakers of your crea-  
tion. We pray through Christ, Son of God, born of earth.**

*(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**

Sarah Windes

*(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**

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

**Sermon:** Posture of Simplicity

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 450: "Be Thou My Vision"**

SLANE

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn 471 (sing three times): "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"**

HEAR MY PRAYER

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

**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:** "Evening and Morning"

Kevin Hildebrand

❖ **Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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**

❖ **Hymn 747: "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"**

The Lord now sends us forth  
with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth  
a better place to live.

The Lord now sends us forth  
with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth  
a better place to live.

The angels are not sent  
into our world of pain  
to do what we were meant  
to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me  
and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray,  
to do your will today.

❖ **Benediction**

**Postlude: "Tis the Gift to be Simple"**

Shaker Hymn, set by Noel Goemanne



---

Today's prelude, inspired by the line "...He leadeth me beside the still waters" from Psalm 23, was composed by Amy Beach during the time following the death of her husband and mother. Amy Beach (1867-1944) was a child prodigy, piano virtuoso, and the first American woman to become a successful composer of art music. Today's postlude is based on a Shaker hymn tune. The original text is: 'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free/'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,/ And when we find ourselves in the place just right,/ 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight. Citations: Call to Confession from *The Worship Sourcebook*. Music: used with permission under One License #A-701634. All rights reserved.

---

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 of this community.

**Serving:** Church Opener: Ben Corl

**Ushers:** Craig and Sarah Woolsey, and Tom and Judy Pospichal

**Serving Refreshments:** Jim and Janet Rakes

**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 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

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



**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. Snacks will be provided to hold you until lunchtime!

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).

**Moments of Wonder and Awe - A Call for Photos:** When and where have you experienced wonder and awe in the natural world? We invite you to send in up to two photos to share on a slide show of wonder and awe that we will be showing in the Gathering Space throughout the Season of Creation. Send your photos (no more than two) to eday511@gmail.com any time between now and Sept. 20.

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

---

### BPC's Music for Mission Series begins today!

Today, 4:00 pm, BPC sanctuary: Featuring Geoffrey Herd, violinist, and Anna Petrova, pianist. Both are members of the music faculty at the University of Louisville. The concert is free with an offering taken to support local community ministries. This concert will benefit the Women's Resource Center.



---

**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.

---

### Y'all means all.



**Transforming, Mondays, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 7:00 pm, WM:** This small 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. (Books are available in the office with a requested donation of \$20. If cost is a barrier, please take one as a gift.)

---

## THIS WEEK

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

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

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: Creation Care Fair, FH. See announcements for details.
- 4:00 pm: Music for Mission concert, SNC. See announcements for details.
- 5:30-7:30 pm: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: Called Session meeting, Zoom

**Mon., Sept. 18:**

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR
- 7:00-8:30: *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* book study, WM. See announcements for details.

**Tues., Sept. 19:**

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

**Wed., Sept. 20:**

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

**Thur., Sept. 21:**

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

**Sat., Sept. 23:**

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

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

- 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*. Led by Anne Campbell, Bill Hendricks, and Pastors Sarah and Emily.
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 3:30-7:00 pm: Ministry Leaders Retreat, FH
- 4:00: Interfaith Reading Group, Jewish Community Center (201 Roanoke St. E)
- No Youth Group meeting

---

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon., Sept. 25:**

- 1:00-3:00 pm: Knitwits, WM

**Thur., Sept. 28:**

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries, Zoom
- 7:30-9:00: Faith Circle meeting, Sarah Woolsey's home (2015 Hardwick St., Bburg)

**Sun., Oct. 1:**

- 11:30-1:00 pm: I Love to Tell the Story - Bible 101, FH. For newbies and scholars alike, this class will survey the Bible and various ways to read it. We'll gather for lectures at BPC on Sundays Oct. 1, 8, Nov. 5, 19, and we will have conversation and fellowship at Eastern Divide (3175 Commerce Dr.) on Saturdays at 4pm on Oct. 7, 14, 28, Nov. 11. Led by Jonathan Anderson and Pastor Sarah.

**Mon., Oct. 2:**

- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle, FH. Newcomers are welcome.
- 7:00-8:30: *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* book study, WM