

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

OCTOBER 8, 2023

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.



INTERNATIONAL MISSION MONTH

Philippines

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

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: “Judgment separates us from the people we want to be close to incredibly quickly. Whether it’s our internal self-judgment that shuts down opportunity for connection or our judgment of others that makes it hard for loved ones to open up to us, judgment is cancer for authenticity in relationships.” — Gina Senarighi

Prelude: Improvisation on “When Twilight Comes”

DAPIT HAPON
Philippines
Alice Brooks Sanders

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: “Come, Let Us Praise the Lord”

Philippines
arr. by John Bell

❖ **Call to Worship**

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!**

Welcome to this space, this time

where divisions fall away,

this space, this time

where we remember we all come from the same Source

this space, this time

where we suspend judgment,

and practice mercy – for others and ourselves.

This space, this time

is for everyone who is both a saint and a sinner.

In other words,

this space and this time are for everyone.

Come, let us worship!

❖ **Hymn 667:** “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LAUDES DOMINI

When morning gilds the skies,

my heart awaking cries:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer

to Jesus I repair:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?

A solace here I find:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss?

My comfort still is this:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round

in joyful notes resound:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let air and sea and sky

from depth to height reply:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,

my canticle divine:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the eternal song

through all the ages long:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

❖Prayer of Approach

Jesus,
the truth is we love to draw lines between us and them.

**The only trouble is, the more lines we draw,
the more anxious we become.**

This morning we ask that you would lift that
inclination to divide the world, and ourselves,
into groups and categories,

**so that we might have a little more space
in our minds and our hearts for you.**

Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
our failures are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
and what our hearts can no longer bear.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

(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

Rev. Sarah Wiles

(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

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, CEB

24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. 25 While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The servants of the landowner came and said to him, 'Master, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?' 28 "'An enemy has done this,' he answered. "The servants said to him, 'Do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 "But the landowner said, 'No, because if you gather the weeds, you'll pull up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvest time I'll say to the harvesters, "First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn."

36 Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." 37 Jesus replied, "The one who plants the good seed is the Human One. 38 The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. 39 The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels. 40 Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. 41 The Human One will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. 42 He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Those who have ears should hear."

Sermon: Beloved Community: Who's in? Who's out?

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn:** "The Wheat and the Weeds"

EVERY NIGHT

(Cantor on verse 1)

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

Minute for Mission: Philippines

Scott Smith

Offertory: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

set by Robert Vandall

Linda King and Alice Brooks Sanders, piano duet

❖ **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 538:** "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,
fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from each field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in God's garner evermore.

Scroll for more . . .

Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified,
in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come;
raise the glorious harvest home!

Closing Responses

Is it true that God loves the world?
Amen. This is true!

Is it true that God loves all people?
Amen. This is true!

Is it true that Jesus came to make all things new?
Amen. This is true!

Then let us go forth
as those whom God has called,
to bear witness to the love and justice of heaven,
to be beacons of light and signs of transformation,
for of such is the kingdom of heaven.
Amen.

❖Benediction

Postlude: "Processional"

William Mathias



Two hymns from the Philippines will help gather us for worship this morning. The prelude is based on an evening hymn composed in 1990 by Francisco Feliciano, an important Filipino composer, with a text by Catholic priest Moises Andrade. It can be found in our hymnal, #195. The centering music, while recently composed by Filipino singer, songwriter and Episcopal priest Rev. Daniel Carino, is in a more indigenous style. Lower voices sing "Chayawen si ama" (Praise the Father) while the upper voices sing "O let us praise the Lord our God."

Citations: Prayer of Confession from Book of Worship, United Church of Christ. Closing Responses from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, 1st ed.

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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 of this community.

Serving: Church Opener: Nancy Furr

Ushers: Darrell Bosch, Jordan Boffen, and Natasha and Todd Lowe

Elder Serving Refreshments: Paula Stith

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).

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

I Love to Tell the Story: A Bible Survey: Join us today after worship in Fellowship Hall for our Bible survey class that is for newbies and scholars alike. Additional class gatherings will be on Sundays, Nov. 5 and, 19 after worship at BPC, and Saturdays, Oct. 14 and 28, and Nov. 11 at 4pm at Eastern Divide (3175 Commerce Dr.). Led by Jonathan Anderson and Pastor Sarah.

Newcomers' Social Gathering, today, 4pm, Blacksburg Municipal Park, Shelter 9 (adjacent to Hand-in-Hand Playground): Note time and venue changes. Come for an informal time to get to know others at BPC. Desserts provided. Introductions led by Pastor Sarah. The best place to park is by the tennis courts accessed from the entrance on Patrick Henry Dr. All are welcome.

Newcomers' Class, Sunday, Oct. 15, 9am, in Westminster: All are welcome.



Interfaith Food Pantry - Holiday Food Bags: For the upcoming holiday season, the Interfaith Food Pantry would once again like to provide families with a special bag of food for a holiday meal. Participating families will receive this bag of food along with a turkey or ham at Thanksgiving and Christmas. To make this happen, the food pantry has reached out to supporting churches and other organizations throughout the community requesting help with this effort. Along these lines, our Community Ministry Team would like to ask for your support through donations of canned green beans. **Our goal is 500 cans.**

If you would like to contribute, **please leave your donations in the designated collection box just outside of the church office no later than October 15.** If you would prefer to support this initiative with a **monetary donation**, please do so at blacksburgpres.org/give. **THANK YOU!**

International Mission Month Gathering - Guatemala, Oct. 15, after worship, Fellowship Hall: Beth Mattson will give a slideshow and presentation on her trip earlier this year with other folks from Virginia to visit CEDEPCA in Guatemala. Appetizers will be provided.

THIS WEEK

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

Sun., Oct. 8: International Mission Month - Philippines

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 11:30-1:00 pm: I Love to Tell the Story - Bible 101, FH. See announcements.
- 4:00-5:00: Newcomers' Social, Blacksburg Municipal Park, shelter 9 (920 Turner St., NE). Note venue and time change. See announcements.
- 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

Mon., Oct. 9: Indigenous Peoples' Day - church office is closed.

- 6:00-8:00 pm: Hildegard Circle meeting, Jan McGilliard's home (305 Country Club Dr.)
- 7:00-8:30: *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* book study, WM.

Tues., Oct. 10:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Led by Pastor Sarah (contact for link).
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

Wed., Oct. 11:

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

Thur., Oct. 12:

- 3:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery, 2351 Glades Road. Feel free to just show up.

Sat., Oct. 14:

- 4:00-6:00 pm: I Love to Tell the Story Social Hour, Eastern Divide (3175 Commerce Dr.). All are welcome, including children.

Sun., Oct. 15: International Mission Month - Guatemala

- 9:00 am: Newcomers' Class. WM. See announcements.
- 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. Topic this Sunday: Understanding End-of-Life Trajectories. Led by Anne Campbell, Bill Hendricks, and Pastors Sarah and Emily
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: International Mission Month Gathering, FH. See announcements.
- 4:00-5:00 pm: Music for Mission concert with Fr. Sean Duggan, piano. Concert is free with an offering to support the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. See bulletin insert.
- 4:00-5:30: Interfaith Discussion Group, location TBD
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR
- *No book study – Session meeting - 7:00: Mere Christianity book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Oct. 16:

- 7:00-8:30: *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* book study, WM.

Thur., Oct. 19:

- 3:30 pm: Community Ministries, Zoom

Sun., Oct. 22: International Mission Month - Malawi

- After worship: International Mission Month Gathering – Malawi Luncheon: Past Accomplishments and Our Future
- 5:30-7:00 pm: Congregational Bonfire, Caldwell Fields, Milton Field. All are welcome! S'mores fixins' will be provided. Bring your own camp chairs.
- 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

Wed., Oct. 25:

- 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle meeting (change in date for Oct. only), Angela Anderson's home (1100 Kings Arms Lane)