

# BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
OCTOBER 22, 2023

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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.

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## INTERNATIONAL MISSION MONTH

### Malawi

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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

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❖ 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:** "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Prelude:** "Andante Religioso"

Felix Mendelssohn

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Centering Music:** "Come Now, Holy Spirit"

MWIZE A MZIMU  
Traditional Northern Malawi Melody

William Ducker

❖ **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!**

Come! Come into the place where God listens!

**Where you need no money, no status, no fine clothes!**

Come as you are

**Broken, whole**

**Sick, well**

**Satisfied or with deep needs**

Come to sing

**Come to cry**

Come to hear

**Come to see**

Come and be ready or

**Come to be made ready**

We are here

**God is here too**

**Let us worship!**

❖ **Hymn 463:** "How Firm a Foundation"

FOUNDATION

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

### ❖Prayer of Approach

Creator of all, Savior of all, Spirit in all,  
One God in perfect community,  
**be with us now.**

Where there is apathy,  
**kindle the flame of your love.**

Where there is deceit,  
**confront every lie with your truth.**

Where there is hopelessness,  
**reveal deep wells of compassion.**

Where there is joy,  
**let your kindly protection be known.**

Where we hesitate to serve you,  
**make us restless until we change. Amen.**

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

Jesus, we confess we mostly like you when you're safe —  
when your words comfort, console, and make us content.

**We're scared when you provoke us and push us.**  
**We're anxious about the possibility of conflict.**  
**We're worried some of the things you said might give offense.**

Even so, we know we need you.

**We long to be set free from fear, anxiety, and worry.**

**We long to love the way you do.**

**Forgive us. Confront us. Make us whole.**

*(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 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

Matthew 10:34-39, CEB

34 "Don't think that I've come to bring peace to the earth. I haven't come to bring peace but a sword. 35 I've come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 People's enemies are members of their own households. 37 "Those who love father or mother more than me aren't worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren't worthy of me. 38 Those who don't pick up their crosses and follow me aren't worthy of me. 39 Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them."

God be in our listening,

God be in our understanding. **Amen.**

**Sermon:** Beloved Community: No Justice, No Peace

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 697: "Take My Life"**

Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee,  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee,  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my sliver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose,  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne,  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.

❖ **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: Malawi**

Suzanne Ducker

❖ **Offertory: "Wade in the Water"**

Wade in the water, children. God's gonna trouble the water.  
Tell you one thing and it's certainly sure. Judgment's comin' and I don't know.  
Tell you once and I tell you twice, my soul's anchored in Jesus Christ.

African American Spiritual  
(arranger unknown)

❖ **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 HUNDRE

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

❖ Hymn 100: "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

❖ 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:** "Toccatina in E Minor"

Johann Pachelbel



Today's anthem "Wade in the Water" appears in many versions, with numerous sets of verses. The refrain "God's gonna trouble the water" alludes to John 4:5, in which Jesus heals the sick man who had been hoping for 38 years to be the first to reach the waters of the Pool of Bethesda stirred up by the angel. Jesus chooses to heal on the Sabbath, which creates conflict between him and the Pharisees. Music: used with permission under One License #A-701634. All rights reserved. Citations: Call to Worship from *Liturgies from Below*. Prayer of Approach and Closing Responses from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*.

## 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:** Greg and Anne Campbell, Rachel Parson, and Susan Bailey

**Elder Serving Refreshments:** Gabe Minnich

**The flowers for the sanctuary today** are provided by Julie Burger, and Clara and Benjamin Corl, to the glory of God and in honor of Helen Corl's October 19<sup>th</sup> 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 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

**International Mission Month Gathering - Malawi, today, after worship, Fellowship Hall:** Join the Malawi Partnership for a light lunch and presentation of past accomplishments and ongoing projects. BPC has been involved with our Malawi partners for almost 20 years. In that time, we have accomplished many good things: scholarships for day school students, nursing students, and most recently two medical school students. We have also helped the Mulanje Presbyterian Mission Hospital with solar panels, medications, and the Sustainable Livelihoods Program.

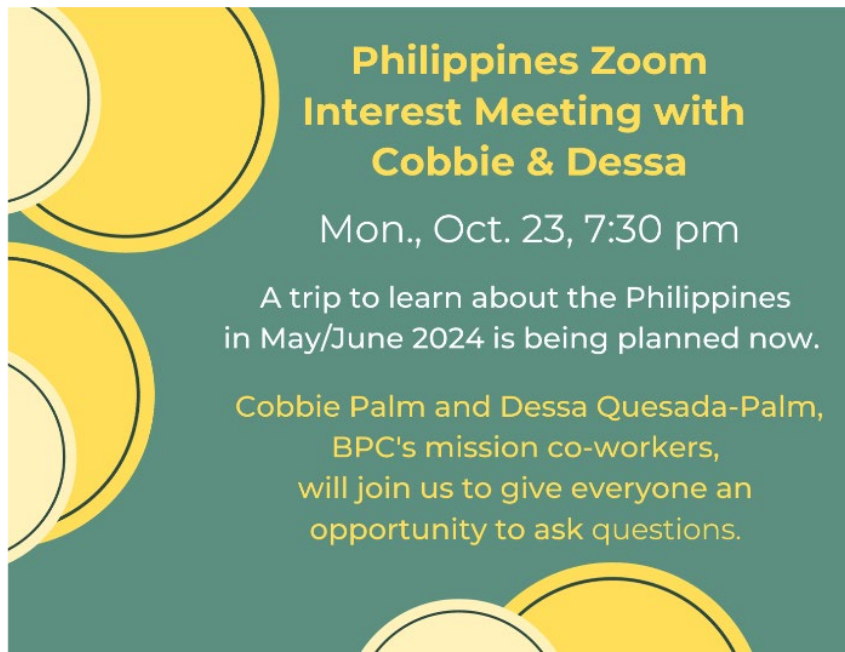


**Today at 5:30!**

**Congregational Bonfire**

Today, 5:30pm  
Caldwell Fields, Milton Field  
(3781 Craig Creek Rd, Catawba)

Enjoy s'mores and a warm fire in a beautiful autumn setting with fellow BPC members. There is no program, just plenty of time for fellowship and time by the fire. All are welcome! S'mores fixin's will be provided. Bring your own camp chairs and a picnic dinner!



**Philippines Zoom Interest Meeting with Cobbie & Dessa**

Mon., Oct. 23, 7:30 pm

A trip to learn about the Philippines in May/June 2024 is being planned now.

Cobbie Palm and Dessa Quesada-Palm, BPC's mission co-workers, will join us to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions.

If you are interested, please contact [pastorsarah@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:pastorsarah@blacksburgpres.org) or [susanh@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:susanh@blacksburgpres.org) for the Zoom link.



**All Saints' Day, November 5:** We will be celebrating All Saints' Day in worship on November 5. As part of the service, names of loved ones who have died in the last year will be read aloud. If you have lost a loved one in the last year and would like their name to be read, please go to [blacksburgpres.org/saints](http://blacksburgpres.org/saints) and complete the request form. A form will be included in next Sunday's bulletin for those who prefer to request that way. Names of people who are not members of BPC are welcome. *Submission deadline: Nov. 1.*

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#### THIS WEEK

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

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

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 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! See announcements.
- 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

**Mon., Oct. 23:**

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR
- 1:00-3:00: Knitwits, WM
- 7:30: Philippines Interest Meeting w/Cobbie and Dessa. See announcements.

**Tues., Oct. 24:**

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

**Wed., Oct. 25:**

- 5:30 pm: Handbells rehearsal, FH
- 7:00: Choir rehearsal, choir room
- 7:30-9:00: Faith Circle meeting (change in date for Oct. only), Angela Anderson's home (1100 Kings Arms Lane)

**Thur., Oct. 26:**

- 5:00-6:00: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery, 2351 Glade Road. Feel free to just show up.

**Sat., Oct. 28:**

- 4:00-6:00 pm: I Love to Tell the Story Social Hour, Eastern Divide (3175 Commerce Dr.). All are welcome, including children. Next (and last) get-together is on Nov. 11.
- 7:30-9:00: Blacksburg Master and Children Chorales concert, "Lift Every Voice: A Celebration of Black Composers," BPC. For event and ticket information: [www.blacksburgmasterchorale.org/](http://www.blacksburgmasterchorale.org/)

**Sun., Oct. 29:**

- 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: Managing Your Journey at the End of Life. Led by Anne Campbell, Bill Hendricks, and Pastors Sarah and Emily.
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: Congregational meeting (short), SNC
- After worship-1:00 pm: Celebrate fall with pumpkin carving, outside on patio (FH in case of rain). Bring your own pumpkin. Tools and a light lunch provided.
- 4:00-5:30: Interfaith Discussion Group of *The Great Partnership: God, Science, and the Search for Meaning* by Jonathan Sacks, Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
- 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon., Oct. 30:**

- 7:00-8:30 pm: *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* book study (last meeting), WM

**Fri., Nov. 3:**

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

**Sun., Nov. 5:** Communion Sunday and All Saints' Day

- See announcements for information to request the name of your loved one to be read aloud on All Saints' Day. The deadline for submission is Nov. 1.
- 11:30-1:00 pm: I Love to Tell the Story - Bible 101, FH. Next (and last) class gathering will be on Sunday, Nov. 19. Led by Jonathan Anderson and Pastor Sarah.