

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

ALL SAINTS' DAY

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.



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: “A human being is a part of the whole [which is] called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.” - Albert Einstein

Prelude: “Prelude from Suite in D Minor”

J.S. Bach
Charlie Wyatt, cello

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music (hymn 654): “In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful”

(Sing four times)

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

IN THE LORD I’LL BE EVER THANKFUL

Caroline Garcia

❖ **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!**

One: Blessed are the agnostics.
Left: Blessed are they who doubt.
Right: Those who aren’t sure, who can still be surprised.
Left: Blessed are those who have nothing to offer.
Right: Blessed are the preschoolers who cut in line at communion.
All: Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

One: Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.
Left: Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones,
for whom tears could fill an ocean.
Right: Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like.
All: Blessed are the parents of the miscarried.

One: Blessed are they who don’t have the luxury
of taking things for granted anymore.
Left: Blessed are they who can’t fall apart because they have to
keep it together for everyone else.
Right: Blessed are those who “still aren’t over it yet.”
All: Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

One: Blessed are those who no one else notices.
Left: The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables.
Right: The laundry guys at the hospital.
All: The immigrant dishwashers without papers.

One: Blessed are the forgotten. Blessed are the closeted.
Left: Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, the underrepresented.
Right: Blessed are the teens who have to figure out ways
to hide the new cuts on their arms.
All: Blessed are the meek. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

One: Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break,
the ones for whom life is hard, for Jesus chose to surround himself
with people like them.

Left: Blessed are those who can't make bail.
Right: Blessed are the ones without lobbyists.

All: Blessed are foster kids and kids who are unhoused and every other kid who just wants to feel safe and loved.

One: Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions for the sake of people.

Left: Blessed are the burned-out social workers and the overworked teachers and the pro bono case takers.

Right: Blessed are the kids who step between the bullies and the bullied.

One: Blessed are they who hear that they are forgiven.

All: Blessed is everyone who has ever forgiven me when I didn't deserve it.

One: Blessed are the merciful, for they bring heaven on earth.

All: Come one, come all, beloved of God, let us worship together.

❖ **Hymn 511: "Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven"**

LLANFAIR

Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
"Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!

All is ready, come attend Alleluia!
as the Lord's invited friend; Alleluia!
come from north, west, south, and east; Alleluia!
celebrate the joyful feast. Alleluia!

All who trust in God belong Alleluia!
at this banquet with this throng. Alleluia!
Share the mystic holy food; Alleluia!
taste and see: the Lord is good. Alleluia!

As the Lord our God has willed, Alleluia!
here the hungry soul is filled; Alleluia!
here the weary are refreshed. Alleluia!
All who share God's feast are blessed. Alleluia!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(Silent prayer)

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.**

(Choir first then congregation)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Neither this world nor your life is so broken
that God cannot restore it to wholeness.

In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

❖ **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Halle, halle, hallelujah! *(sing three times)*

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

(Worshippers may exchange signs of God's peace, and children may come forward for a time of sharing faith together.)

HALLE, HALLE
Refrain, Hymn 591

❖ HEARING THE WORD ❖

Sharing Faith with Children

Marcia Parks

(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.)

Story of Abundant Life

Ed Spencer

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-12, NRSVUE

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

God be in our listening,

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

Sermon: Abundant Life: Compassion

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 729 (vv. 1-2, 4): Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.

Call to Offering

Offertory: "Subdue Us by Thy Goodness"

J.S. Bach

Ben Wyatt, cello

Subdue us by Thy goodness, awake us by Thy grace;
That we whose hearts are weary may life anew embrace.
And though earth's woes be near us, Thy Spirit still shall cheer us.
All praise and thanks to Thee! - Elisabeth Kreuziger, 1524

❖ **Doxology**

God, we honor you.

God, we trust in you.

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

Hymn 709

God, we worship and adore you.
Take what we bring, offered to you.
Teach us to show your abundant blessings.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, thank you!

Thank you for all the gifts we notice,
and all the gifts we don't.

Thank you for the ever-flowing river of your grace,
your justice, your compassion, and your love.

Let our gratitude overflow into generosity.
Let your gifts to us overflow into gifts we give to others.
As your children, made in your image,
let us be creators of abundant life for all.

In the joyful, generous name of Jesus we pray, **Amen.**

Celebration of Communion

Revs. Emily Rhodes Hunter & Sarah Wiles

(All are welcome at Christ's table. Use the center aisle to reach a station in the front of the sanctuary and return by the side aisle to your seat. Gluten-free bread is available at the center station in front. If you need to remain seated, the elements will be brought to you.)

❖ **Communion Hymn (see insert): "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"**

BEACH SPRING

Invitation to the Table

Remembering Our Great Cloud of Witnesses

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.**

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer After Supper

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ **Hymn 326: "For All the Saints"**

SINE NOMINE

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

❖Benediction

Postlude: "Shall We Gather at the River"

set by Joel Raney



Thanks to Caroline Garcia for being a liturgist today. She is active at BPC and with UKirk.
Citations: Call to Worship adapted from Nadia Bolz-Weber. Assurance of Forgiveness from *Touch Holiness*. Prayer of Dedication by SALT project. Art: *Sermon on the Mount* by Laura James, from Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN, diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57891. Original source: Laura James, <https://www.laurajamesart.com/collections/religious/>. 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: Craig Woolsey

Ushers: Chris Lawrence, Heidi Swartzwelder, Reed or Ella Lawrence, Marcia Parks
Gabe Minnich

Elder Serving Refreshments:

The flowers for the sanctuary today are provided by Marilyn, Mark, and Jon Hutchins to the glory of God and in loving memory of David Hutchins.

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

The pictorial directory is complete! Paper copies are in the Gathering Space window and on the cookies and lemonade table after worship. Please take one copy per household.

Community Holiday Outreach November: Woodchucks Christmas Baskets

During the Christmas season, the Woodchucks provide additional warmth and cheer, along with firewood, by delivering Christmas baskets of food to their clients. The list of needed food items can be found in the Midweek email update or attached to the boxes by BPC entry doors. Please bring your donations to those boxes by Nov. 26.

Poinsettias: Please see the insert to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary during Advent.

THIS WEEK

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

All activities are open to everyone.

Contact Rhonda at rhonda@blacksburgpres.org for more information.

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

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 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.
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

Mon., Nov. 6:

- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle meeting, FH. All are welcome.

Tues., Nov. 7:

- Election Day: Remember to vote!
- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Led by Pastor Sarah (contact for link).

Wed., Nov. 8:

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

Thur., Nov. 9:

- 3:30-4:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Road). Feel free to just show up.

Fri., Nov. 10:

- Church office is closed - Veterans Day (observed)

Sat., Nov. 11:

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

Sun., Nov. 12:

- 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: Plans for Your Body and Funeral/Memorial Service Preparation. Led by Anne Campbell, Bill Hendricks, and Pastors Sarah and Emily.
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- Cents-Ability Offering Emphasis
- After worship-1:00 pm: Abundant Life Lunch, FH. See announcements for details.
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Nov. 13:

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR
- 6:00: Hildegard Circle meeting, Paula Stith's home (2410 Woodland Hills Dr.)

Thur., Nov. 16:

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries, Zoom

Sun., Nov. 19:

- Commitment Sunday: Bring your pledges for 2024 as we celebrate the abundant life at BPC
- 11:30-1:00 pm: Last class - I Love to Tell the Story - Bible 101, FH. Led by Jonathan Anderson and Pastor Sarah.
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR

Wed., Dec. 7:

- 5:30 pm: Save the Date! Gingerbread Decorating Potluck Dinner. Help is needed for baking house parts with delivery to the church by Dec. 3. Contact Susan Hunter for more information at susanh@blacksburgpres.org.