

# BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NOVEMBER 12, 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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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:** "Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public." — Cornel West

**Prelude:** "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace/What Does the Lord Require of You?"  
Judy McCord, handbell solo

S. Temple/J. Strathdee

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Centering Music:** "In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful"

*(Please meditate on the words as the handbells play)*

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

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.

❖ **Call to Worship**

Erin Freck

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!**

In the beginning,

the Source of Life filled the earth as the waters fill the seas.

Here, in the valley of the New River,

**formed before the dinosaurs walked the earth,  
as the first bugs and beetles scurried,  
and the world flourished with ferns and horse-tails,  
streams of living water continue to flow.**

So, come beloved,

be refreshed, renewed, remade in Love's waters.

Receive the life that can never die—

life abundant!

**Come, let us worship together!**

❖ **Hymn 610:** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

AZMON

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

*(Silent prayer)*

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

**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!**

HALLE, HALLE

Refrain, Hymn 591

*(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**

Andrew Warren

*(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.)*

**Story of Abundant Life**

Rachel Parson

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading**

Amos 5:7-15, 21-24, CEB

7 Doom to you who turn justice into poison, and throw righteousness to the ground! 8 The one who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, darkens the day into night; who summons the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the surface of the earth—one's name is the Lord—9 who causes destruction to flash out against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress. 10 They hate the one who judges at the city gate, and they reject the one who speaks the truth. 11 Truly, because you crush the weak, and because you tax their grain, you have built houses of carved stone, but you won't live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you won't drink their wine. 12 I know how many are your crimes, and how numerous are your sins—afflicting the righteous, taking money on the side, turning away the poor who seek help. 13 Therefore, the one who is wise will keep silent in that time; it is an evil time. 14 Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of heavenly forces, will be with you just as you have said. 15 Hate evil, love good, and establish justice at the city gate. Perhaps the Lord God of heavenly forces will be gracious to what is left of Joseph.

21 I hate, I reject your festivals; I don't enjoy your joyous assemblies. 22 If you bring me your entirely burned offerings and gifts of food—I won't be pleased; I won't even look at your offerings of well-fed animals. 23 Take away the noise of your songs; I won't listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

God be in our listening,

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

**Sermon:** Abundant Life: Justice and Love

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 693:** "Though I May Speak"

GIFT OF LOVE

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.**

**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.**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory:** "Canticle of Joy"

Dan Edwards

❖Doxology

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

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

Hymn 709

❖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.**

❖BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖Hymn 757: "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

KINGSFOLD

Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.

## ❖Benediction

Postlude: "Great Day, the Righteous Marchin'"

Spiritual  
Set by Adolphus Hailstork



Thanks to Erin Freck for being a liturgist today. She is active at BPC and with UKirk.

Citations: Assurance of Forgiveness from *Touch Holiness*. Prayer of Dedication by SALT project. *Misty Kirifuri Waterfall at Kurokami Mountain* by Katsushika Hokusai (Japanese, 1760-1849) ca. 1833. Woodblock print on dyed paper, 37.6 × 27 cm. National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. 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: Darrell Bosch, and Gillian, 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](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.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**How to give your Cents-Ability Offerings (received each 3rd Sunday all year):** 1) collect coins and either put them in the jar in the sanctuary or recycle the coins and do #2 or #3, 2) put your cash or check in a Cents-Ability envelope from the pew rack, 3) make your contribution from the BPC Give page on the BPC website.

## YOU'RE INVITED!

What: A celebration of BPC's abundance of joy, delight, and love.

When: Today! | after worship | Who: YOU!

Lunch will be provided.  
There will be prizes, games, and surprises!



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**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 Gathering Space window for forms to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary during Advent. The last day to order is Sunday, 11/19.

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**The pictorial directory is complete!** Paper copies are in the Gathering Space window. Please take one copy per household.

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**Save the Date! Gingerbread House Decorating Potluck Dinner, Wed., Dec. 6, 2023, at 5:30 pm:** Bring a main or side dish to share and candy/pretzels/cereal for decorating. Friends are welcome! **Help is needed:** We need bakers to prepare the gingerbread house parts. Paper copies of the recipe and pattern are in the Gathering Space window. Bake gingerbread house parts and bring to the BPC freezer by Dec. 3. Email Susan Hunter for more information at [susanh@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:susanh@blacksburgpres.org).



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**Experiences of Abundant Life Participatory Bulletin Board:** Help us take note of Welcoming Community, Beautiful Worship, Lifelong Growth, and Pursuing Justice by writing or drawing on a leaf or acorn or pumpkin and filling our cornucopia of abundance! Find the bulletin board across from the stairs and elevator.

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#### 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](mailto:rhonda@blacksburgpres.org) for more information.

**Sun., Nov. 12:** Communion Sunday and All Saints' Sunday

- 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

**Mon., Nov. 13:**

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

**Tues., Nov. 14:**

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Led by Pastor Sarah (contact for link).
- 7:00-8:30 pm: PW Coordinating Team, Zoom
- 7:00 pm: Creation Care Team meeting, Zoom

**Wed., Nov. 15:**

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

**Thur., Nov. 16:**

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

**Sun., Nov. 19:**

- Commitment Sunday: Bring your pledges for 2024 as we celebrate the abundant life at BPC.
- 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: What's Next? Christian Hopes After Death. Led by Anne Campbell, Bill Hendricks, and Pastors Sarah and Emily.
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 11:30-1:00 pm: Last class - I Love to Tell the Story - Bible 101, FH. Led by Jonathan Anderson and Pastor Sarah
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR
- *No class meeting - 7:00: Mere Christianity book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory*



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wed., Dec. 6:**

- 5:30 pm: Save the Date! Gingerbread Decorating Potluck Dinner. **Help is needed.** See announcements for details.

**Sun., Dec. 10:**

- During worship: The BPC Choir and Handbell Choir with Alice Sanders, music director, present *Savior of the Nations, Come - An Advent/Christmas Hymn Festival* by Michael Burkhardt, SNC