

# BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

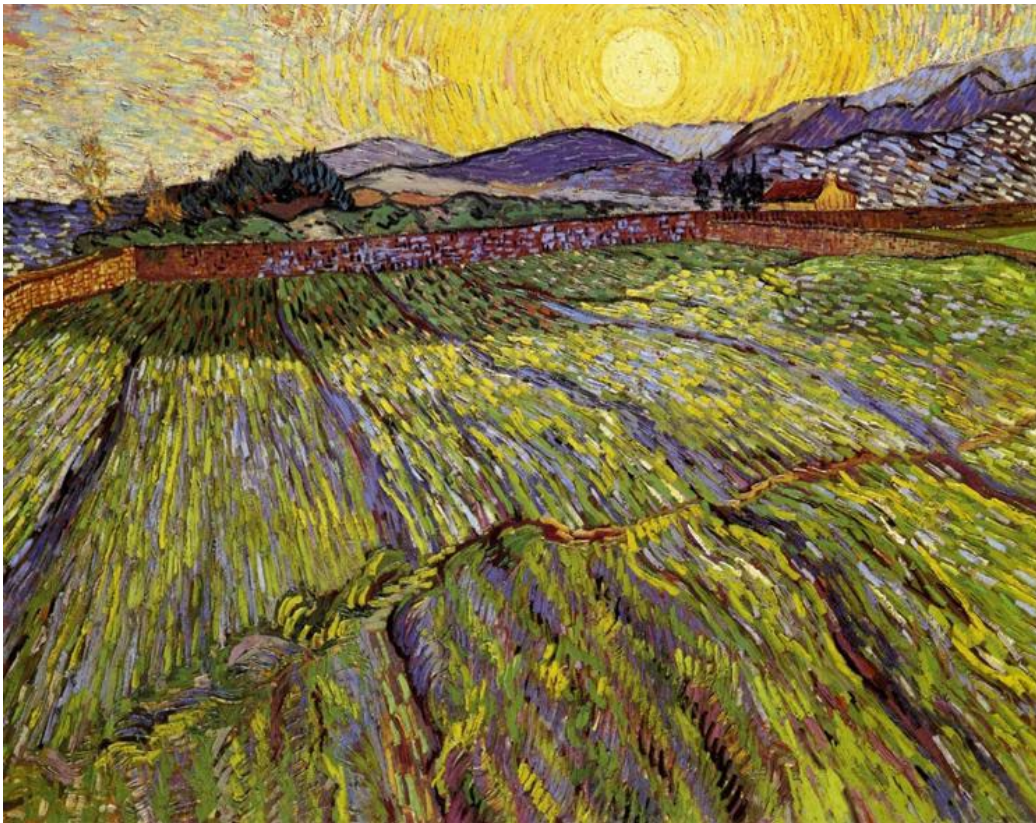
SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NOVEMBER 19, 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

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

**Thought for Meditation:** “‘We are literally in the heart of Jesus,’ [the youth] said. ‘I thought we were in a church basement, but we are literally in the heart of Jesus.’” – John Green

**Prelude:** “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

set by Johann Walther

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Centering Music:** “In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful”

*(Congregation sings four times.)*

Daron Phay, cantor

**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.**

IN THE LORD I’LL BE EVER THANKFUL  
Hymn 654

❖ **Call to Worship**

Stewart Laing

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!**

God is here.

**And we are here.**

But why? Why are we here?

**We are here hungry for the bread we can’t buy,  
the abundance that never runs out.**

**We are here longing to have our shame washed away  
by the waters of life.**

**We are here hoping for a taste of home –  
where the door is always open,  
the table’s always set,  
and we are surrounded by a reunion of long-lost kin.**

Come, friends, you belong here.

**Let us worship God!**

❖ **Hymn 35:** “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

**Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.**

**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*)

HALLE, HALLE

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

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

Alice Sanders

(*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

Jim Marchman

### Anthem: "Treasures in Heaven"

Joseph Clokey

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
Where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.  
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.  
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.  
Ask, and it shall be given you;  
Seek, and ye shall find;  
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.  
For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh, findeth,  
And to him that knocketh it shall be opened. -- Matthew 6:19-21; 7:7-8

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture Reading

Joel 2:23-24, 26-29, CEB

23 Children of Zion,  
rejoice and be glad in the Lord your God,  
because he will give you the early rain as a sign of righteousness;  
he will pour down abundant rain for you,  
the early and the late rain, as before.  
24 The threshing floors will be full of grain;  
the vats will overflow with new wine and fresh oil.  
26 You will eat abundantly and be satisfied,  
and you will praise the name of the Lord your God,  
who has done wonders for you;  
and my people will never again be put to shame.  
27 You will know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I am the Lord your God – no other exists;  
never again will my people be put to shame.  
28 After that I will pour out my spirit upon everyone;  
your children will prophesy,  
your elders will dream dreams,  
and your youth will see visions.  
29 In those days, I will also pour out my  
spirit on all your servants.

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

Sermon: What is Church for?

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ Hymn 852: "When the Lord Redeems the Very Least"

I'LL FLY AWAY

When the Lord redeems the very least,  
we will rejoice.  
When the hungry gather for the feast,  
we will rejoice.

Refrain:

We will rejoice with gladness.  
We will rejoice.  
All our days we'll sing to God in praise.  
We will rejoice!

When the Lord restores the sick and weak,  
we will rejoice.  
When the earth is given to the meek,  
we will rejoice. (Refrain)

When the Lord revives the world from death,  
we will rejoice.  
When the word of God fills every breath,  
we will rejoice. (Refrain)

When the Lord returns in victory,  
we will rejoice.  
When we live in glorious liberty,  
we will rejoice. (Refrain)

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

Sharing Our Commitments for BPC's Ministry for 2024

❖ Doxology

*(Sing twice. You will hear the choir singing in canon the second time through.)*

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 643: "Now Thank We All Our God"

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

**Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms,  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in God's grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God,  
who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son  
and Spirit now be given:  
the one eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth adore,  
the God who was, and is,  
and shall be evermore.**

❖Benediction

**Postlude: "Now Thank We All Our God: Marche Triomphale"**

Sigfrid Karg-Elert



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Citations: Assurance of Forgiveness from *Touch Holiness*. Prayer of Dedication by SALT project. Art: *Enclosed field with Rising Sun* by Vincent van Gogh, 1889, public domain.

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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:** Craig Woolsey

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

**Elder Serving Refreshments:** Kyle White

**The flowers in the sanctuary today are provided by Les and Winnie Myers** to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents.

**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 *Mid-Week 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.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Holiday Outreach November: Woodchucks Christmas Baskets:** The Woodchucks are a group of folks from BPC and in the community who provide firewood to people in Montgomery County who need help in heating their homes. 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 Mid-week 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 today!

**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! Email Susan Hunter for more information at [susanh@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:susanh@blacksburgpres.org).

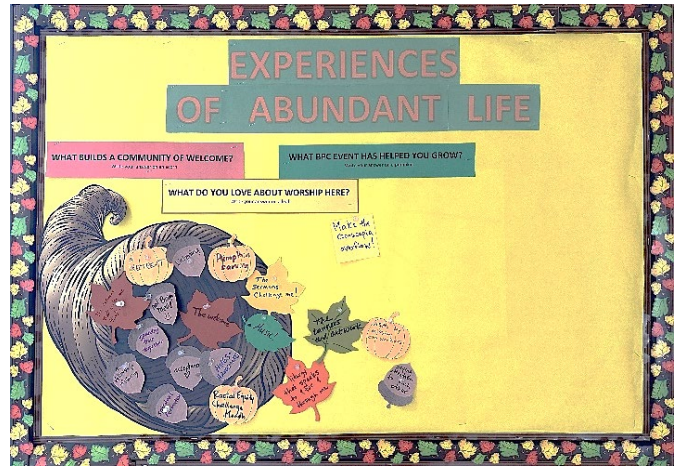
Help is needed:

- **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.
- **Builders** - to assemble houses at 12:30-3:30pm, Dec 4 & 5, in Hatcher conference room.
- **Beaters** - four people and stand mixers to whip frosting at 5:30pm, Dec. 6.





**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, acorn, pumpkin or apple, and filling our cornucopia of abundance! Find the bulletin board across from the stairs and elevator.



**Observing Advent, next Sunday, Nov. 26, and the following Sunday Dec. 3:** For the next two Sundays, you will have an opportunity to pick up materials in the Gathering Space or narthex to help you observe Advent at home - devotional guides, Advent calendars, and Advent wreath materials, items for all ages!

### 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. 19:** Commitment Sunday

- 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
- Class will resume January 14 - 7:00: *Mere Christianity* book study, HCR. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

**Tues., Nov. 21:**

- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

**Thur. & Fri., Nov. 22-23:**

- Church office is closed - Happy Thanksgiving



**Sun., Nov. 26:**

- Advent: Today and next Sunday, Dec. 3, you will have the opportunity to pick up materials in the Gathering Space and narthex for household observance of Advent to Epiphany to include devotional guides, Advent calendars, Advent wreath materials, etc.
  - 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
  - 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
  - After worship: Please join us in decorating the sanctuary and the Chrismon tree for the season of Advent.
  - After worship: Matthew 25 Advisory Group meeting, HCR
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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sun., Dec. 3: Advent Season Begins**

- 10:00 and 11:30 am: Annual Alternative Gift Fair, FH
- 11:30: Advent Festival, with service projects and crafts, FH
- Advent: Materials available in the Gathering Space and narthex for household observance of Advent to Epiphany to include devotional guides, Advent calendars, Advent wreath materials, etc. See the December newsletter and *MidWeek Updates* for a list of events during Advent (Dec. 3-Dec. 24)

**Wed., Dec. 6:**

- 5:30 pm: 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

**Sun., Dec. 17:**

- 9:00 am: Christmas Breakfast, prepared with love by Men of the Church, FH. More information to come!

**Sun., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services**

- 10:30 am: Family Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candles (no childcare; children are welcome in worship).
- 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candles (no childcare; children are welcome in worship).