

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NOVEMBER 26, 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.



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

There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in. - Leonard Cohen, "Anthem"

Prelude: "His Song"

R. Nathaniel Dett

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

WALK WITH ME

Larry Wyatt, cantor

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Hymn 775

✦ **Call to Worship**

Glenn Sanders

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!**

Those who wait for God
shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

✦ **Hymn 43:** "On Eagle's Wings"

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

(Cantor and choir will sing verses; congregation sings refrain.)

Molly Wilkens-Reed, viola

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord, "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain:

And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings, your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield. **(Refrain)**

You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. **(Refrain)**

For to his angels he's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Prayer of Approach

God our Healer, you have already healed us in many ways –
and still we know our need for healing.

We thank you for the healing we have received:
**for relationships, now mended by your healing touch,
for bodies racked with pain, now made free,
for emotions once crippling us, finally restored by love.**

At the same time, we come to you for healing –
**for wounds that have injured our spirits and continue to ache,
for words said to us, perhaps even unknowingly, that have broken our hearts,
for actions against us and those we love, that have nearly crushed our breath from us.**

For all this and much more –
we need your healing touch. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**You know us, God:
you understand who we are.**

**Sometimes we hurt others;
sometimes we hurt ourselves.**

**So, we bring our own hurt
asking for your healing;
and we bring the hurt we have caused others
asking for forgiveness.**

(Silent prayer)

Listen to these words of Jesus,
words that we can trust:
'Don't be afraid.'
'I love you.'
'Your sins are forgiven.'
'I will be with you always.'

**Write these words in our hearts, loving God,
let them take root in our living.**

(All sing together)

**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.**

Song of Peace: "Dona Nobis Pacem"

DONA NOBIS PACEM

English: Grant us peace.

(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 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 & Reflections on Healing

2 Corinthians 12:7-10, The Message

Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then God told me,

My grace is enough; it's all you need.

My strength comes into its own in your weakness.

Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness... And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.

Music for Meditation: "Spiegel im Spiegel"

Arvo Pärt

Hymn 851: "Come, Bring Your Burdens to God"

WOZA NOMTHWALOWAKHO

(Sing three times)

**Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say no.**

**Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say no.**

Blessings for Healing and Prayers of the People

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

❖ **Hymn 831: "I Depend Upon Your Faithfulness"**

TU FIDELIDAD

(Sing three times)

**I depend upon your faithfulness.
I can journey on, for you are always there.
None compares with you, O blessed One;
O how great your faithfulness.**

Call to Offering

Offertory: "Healer of Our Every Ill"

Marty Haugen

Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fears, and hope beyond our sorrow.
You, who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.
You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

❖ Hymn 803: "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

RESIGNATION

My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows;
your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest,
but like a child at home.

❖ Benediction

Postlude: "Amazing Grace"

arr. John Dempsey



Citations: Call to Worship from Isaiah 40:31. Prayer of Approach from *Words for Worship 2*. Prayer of Confession from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*. Assurance of Forgiveness from *Touch Holiness*. Photo: In Japanese 'Kintsugi' means to "join with gold," an elegant and graceful way to mend broken pottery that dates back to the late 15th century. In kintsugi, pot shards are fused back together with gold, and the gilded cracks become part of the object's beauty. The end result is more beautiful because it has been broken, and stronger because of the breaks. Music notes: "His Song" comes from a suite by Robert Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943), a Canadian/American Black composer known for combining the style of the African-American spiritual with classical music idioms. In describing "His Song" Dett writes: "...the moods of suppressed peoples have oftenest found their most touching expression in song. An [old man] will sometimes sit for hours in the quiet of an evening, humming an improvised air whose...melody seems to satisfy a nameless yearning of the heart." "Spiegel im Spiegel" may be familiar to many from its frequent use in movies. The translation "mirror in the mirror" or "mirrors in the mirror" brings to mind the idea of infinity and eternity, while the minimalist compositional style reminiscent of the sound of bells evokes a meditative state of simplicity and serenity. The Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt, is a devout Orthodox Christian. Now 88 years old, he recently released a new album, *Tractus*. 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: Brent Opell

Ushers: Greg Campbell, Phil Bailey, Rachel Parson, & Anne Campbell

Elder Serving Refreshments: Gabe Minnich

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).



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



Observing Advent at Home: Advent begins next week. This Sunday and next, you can 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! See the December newsletter and *MidWeek Update* for a list of events during Advent (Dec. 3-Dec. 24)



Montgomery County Baby Shop Christmas Tree, Nov. 27-Dec. 18: The Baby Shop Christmas tree will return to the Gathering Space this year from Monday, November 27-Sunday, December 18. As in years past, the tree will be decorated with ornaments representing clothing and items most needed by our less fortunate Montgomery County families. **The last day to bring your item is December 17.** To participate, please take an ornament, purchase that item and place it (unwrapped) under the tree. BPC's generous participation in this tradition always makes a huge difference in what the Baby Shop can offer to children in need during the coldest time of the year. Thank you!



Gingerbread House Decorating Potluck Dinner, Wed., Dec. 6, 2023, at 5:30 pm: Friends are welcome! Email Susan Hunter for more information at

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.

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. 26:

- Advent materials are available, GS & narthex. See announcements for details.
- 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

Tues., Nov. 21:

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

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

- Church office is closed – Happy Thanksgiving

Sun., Dec. 3: First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 10:00 and 11:30 am: Annual Alternative Gift Fair, FH
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 11:30: Advent Festival, with service projects and crafts, FH
- Advent: Materials are available, GS & narthex. See announcements for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues., Dec. 5:

- 7:00-8:30 pm: Blacksburg Master Chorale Holiday Sing-Along to benefit Interfaith Food Pantry, SNC.

Wed., Dec. 6:

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

Sun., Dec. 10: Second Sunday of Advent

- 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

Sat., Dec. 16:

- 4:00 pm: Chocolate & Cheer, meet at BPC. Hot chocolate with caroling and cards for folks in need of Christmas cheer. All are welcome! See the *MidWeek* and December newsletter for more information.

Sun., Dec. 17: Third Sunday of Advent

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

Sun., Dec. 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

- 10:30 am: Family Christmas Eve Service, SNC. There will be a pageant that every child (and child at heart!) who wishes can participate in. There's no rehearsal. Pick out a costume when you arrive and join the fun! We will also light candles at this service. (There is no childcare. All children are welcome in worship--especially the squirmy, noisy ones.)
- 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, SNC. (There is no childcare. All children are welcome in worship--especially the squirmy, noisy ones.)

Sun., Dec. 31:

- 10:30 am: Worship service, SNC (no childcare; all children are welcome in worship)

Sun., Jan. 7:

- 10:30 am: Epiphany worship with Epiphany stars, SNC
- 11:30: Epiphany luncheon, FH