

# BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 10, 2023

## Second Sunday of Advent

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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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**The BPC Choir and  
Handbell Choir present**

*Savior of the  
Nations, Come*

An Advent/Christmas Hymn Festival  
by Michael Burkhardt  
with readings from the writings  
of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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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 ❖

**Prelude:** Chorale Prelude on "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Michael Burkhardt

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Centering Music:** "While We Are Waiting, Come"

WAITING

**While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.**

**Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
while we are waiting, come.**

❖ **Call to Worship**

Alex Rascher

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!**

How does a weary world practice peace?

**By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.**

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

**By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.**

There are a million ways to practice peace.

**So, today we sing and pray, speak and listen,  
as a way to create peace in a weary world.**

**Sharing Faith with Children**

Sarah Wiles

*(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.)*

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Song of Advent:** "He Came Down"

HE CAME DOWN

**He came down that we may have love; (sing 3 times)  
hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have peace; (sing 3 times)  
hallelujah forevermore.**

**Call to Confession**

God says, "Don't be afraid."

The angels say, "Don't be afraid."

Jesus says, "Don't be afraid."

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy One, in this time of preparing, we struggle to make time for your arrival. When there are presents to get, we forget your presence among us. With "so much" to do, we forget the mystery of your Being. Slow us down.**

**Loosen us up. Let us laugh at ourselves more freely and love each other more generously. In the midst of the tinsel and the bustle, help us see the twinkling joy.**

*(Silent prayer)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Hear and trust the good news: by grace our sins 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 ❖

**Savior of the Nations, Come**

An Advent/Christmas Hymn Festival by Michael Burkhardt  
with readings from the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Choral Hymn: "Lost in the Night"**

Finnish carol & folk tune

Lost in the night, do the people yet languish,  
Longing for morning, the darkness to vanquish,  
Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish, will not day come soon?  
Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?  
Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,  
Giving no heed to our burden of sorrow? Will you help us soon?  
Sorrowing wanderers, in darkness yet dwelling,  
Dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,  
Death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling. Christ is coming soon!  
Light o'er the land of the needy is beaming;  
Rivers of life through its deserts are streaming,  
Bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming. Come and save us soon!

**Litany for Advent**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Glenn Sanders

Congregational response: **Savior of the nations, come**

**Hymn 88: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

VENI EMMANUEL

*Verses 1-4: Choir*

*Verse 5: Congregation*

*Verse 6: Organ meditation*

*Verse 7: Congregation*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Reading:** A Woman's Passionate Song

Jan McGilliard

**Hymn 99:** "My Soul Gives Glory to the Lord"

MORNING SONG

*Verses 1, 2 and 5: Congregation*

*Verses 3-4: Choir*

1 My soul gives glory to my God;  
my heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness  
in many marvelous ways.

2 My God has done great things for me:  
yes, holy is God's name.  
All people will declare me blessed,  
and blessings they shall claim.

3 From age to age to all who fear,  
such mercy love imparts,  
dispensing justice far and near,  
dismissing selfish hearts.

4 Love casts the mighty from their thrones,  
promotes the insecure,  
leaves hungry spirits satisfied;  
the rich seem suddenly poor.

5 Praise God, whose loving covenant  
supports those in distress,  
remembering past promises  
with present faithfulness.

**Reading:** Celebrating Advent

Rev. Page Foster

**Hymn:** "Savior of the Nations, Come"

*(Congregation joins in with words in bold)*

Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
Not of flesh and blood the son, offspring of the Holy One,  
Born of Mary, ever blest, God in flesh is manifest.  
Wondrous birth, O wondrous Child of the virgin undefiled!  
Though by all the world disowned, yet to be in heaven enthroned.  
From the Father's throne he came and ascended to the same,  
Captive leading death and hell—high the song of triumph swell!

**Praise to God the Father sing, praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally.**

**Reading:** One Single Name

**Hymn 119:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Verses 1 and 3: Congregation*

*Verse 2: Choir*

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

**Reading:** The Turning Around of All Things

**Hymn 129: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

ES IST EIN' ROS'

*Verse 1: Choir*

*Verses 2-3: Congregation*

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming,  
by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
she bore for us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

3 This flower, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
Enfleshed, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.

**Reading:** Everything Past and Everything Future

**Hymn: "He Comes to Us as One Unknown"**

REPTON

*Verses 1-4: Choir; Verse 5: Congregation*

1 He comes to us as one unknown,  
a breath unseen, unheard;  
as though within a heart of stone,  
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,  
a pulse of being stirred,  
a pulse of being stirred.

4 He comes in love as once he came  
by flesh and blood and birth;  
to bear within our mortal frame  
a life, a death, a saving Name,  
for every child of earth,  
for every child of earth.

2 He comes when souls in silence lie  
and thoughts of day depart;  
half-seen upon the inward eye,  
a falling star across the sky  
of night within the heart,  
of night within the heart.

5 **He comes in truth when faith is  
grown;  
believed, obeyed, adored:  
the Christ in all the Scriptures  
shown,  
as yet unseen, but not unknown,  
our Savior and our Lord,  
our Savior and our Lord.**

3 He comes to us in sound of seas,  
the ocean's fume and foam;  
yet small and still upon the breeze,  
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,  
a voice to call us home,  
a voice to call us home.

**Reading:** God is a God of Bearing

**Choral Hymn:** "Rejoice, Rejoice, the Savior Comes"

Rejoice, rejoice, the Savior comes, the Savior promised long;  
 Let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song.  
 He comes the prisoners to release, in evil bondage held.  
 The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.  
 He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure.  
 And with the treasures of God's grace to bless the humble poor.  
 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim,  
 And heaven's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

**Offertory:** "The King of Glory"

*(Congregation joins in on refrain and verses 4-5)*

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| <p>Refrain: <b>The king of glory comes</b><br/> <b>The nation rejoices</b><br/> <b>Open the gates before Him</b><br/> <b>Lift up your voices</b></p> <p>1 Who is the king of glory<br/>     How shall we call Him?<br/>     He is Emmanuel<br/>     The promised of ages (Refrain)</p> <p>2 In all of Galilee<br/>     In city or village<br/>     He goes among his people<br/>     Curing their illness (Refrain)</p> | <p>3 Sing, then of David's son<br/>     Our Savior and brother<br/>     In all of Galilee<br/>     Was never another (Refrain)</p> <p>4 <b>He gave His life for us</b><br/> <b>The pledge of salvation</b><br/> <b>He took upon Himself</b><br/> <b>The sins of the nation (Refrain)</b></p> <p>5 <b>He conquered sin and death</b><br/> <b>He truly has risen</b><br/> <b>And He will share with us</b><br/> <b>His heavenly vision (Refrain)</b></p> |
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KING OF GLORY

**Reading:** Prince of Peace

**Hymn 87:** "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

*(Verses 1-2: Choir; Verse 3: Congregation)*

1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
 tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 "Comfort those who sit in darkness  
 mourning under sorrow's load.  
 To my people now proclaim  
 that my pardon waits for them!  
 Tell them that their sins I cover,  
 and their warfare now is over."

2 For the herald's voice is crying  
 in the desert far and near,  
 calling us to true repentance,  
 since the reign of God is here.  
 O, that warning cry obey!  
 Now prepare for God a way.  
 Let the valleys rise in meeting  
 and the hills bow down in greeting.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
 and the rougher places plain.  
 Let your hearts be true and humble,  
 as befits God's holy reign.  
 For the glory of the Lord  
 now on earth is shed abroad,  
 and all flesh shall see the token  
 that God's word is never broken.

**Reading:** Those Who Go to the Manger

GENEVAN 42

**Hymn 134: "Joy to the World"**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 Let earth receive her king;  
 let every heart prepare him room,  
 and heaven and nature sing,  
 and heaven and nature sing,  
 and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
 Let all their songs employ,  
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 repeat the sounding joy,  
 repeat the sounding joy,  
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
 nor thorns infest the ground;  
 he comes to make his blessings flow  
 far as the curse is found,  
 far as the curse is found,  
 far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 and makes the nations prove  
 the glories of his righteousness  
 and wonders of his love,  
 and wonders of his love,  
 and wonders, wonders of his love.

**❖Benediction****Postlude: "Sleepers Wake!"**

German Chorale, harmonized by J.S. Bach

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Citations: Calls to Worship and Confession adapted from Rev. Sarah Speed, sanctifiedart.org. Prayer of Confession adapted from *Before the Amen*. Today's readings are from the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor, professor, and theologian born in Breslau, Germany in 1906. As many German Christians aligned themselves with the Third Reich and religious persecution of those opposed to Hitler increased, Bonhoeffer helped organize the "Confessing Church" movement and an underground seminary. He spent time studying and serving in London and New York before ultimately returning to Germany in 1939. His involvement in the resistance movement, including a plot to overthrow Adolf Hitler, eventually led to his imprisonment, transfer to Flossenburg camp, and execution on April 9, 1945. His last words are recorded as "This is the end – for me, the beginning of life." The arranger/composer of the hymn festival music, Michael Burkhardt, is artist-professor of organ at Eastern Michigan University, and founder-artistic director of Hearts, Hands and Voices Worship and Fine Arts Program for Children in Southeast Michigan. He is an internationally recognized church music clinician and composer. Music: used with permission under One License #A-701634. All rights reserved.

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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:** Brent Opell**Ushers:** Darrell Bosch, and Gillian, Natasha, and Todd Lowe**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](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



**Chocolate & Cheer, Sat., 12/16, 4pm:** Meet in BPC Fellowship Hall to enjoy cocoa, chocolate treats, and fellowship, then spread warmth by caroling and sharing cards and gingerbread houses with folks who need Christmas cheer. See *Midweek* for details. All ages welcome!



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**Montgomery County Baby Shop Christmas Tree, now to Dec. 17:** The Baby Shop Christmas tree is decorated with ornaments listing clothing and items most needed by our less fortunate Montgomery County families. **The last day to bring your item is December 17.**

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## THIS WEEK

**FH-Fellowship Hall, HCR-Hatcher Conference,  
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., Dec. 10:** Second Sunday of Advent

- *Last meeting of year* - 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 10:30 am: Worship Service - Hymn Festival, SNC
- *Last meeting of year* - 5:30 pm: Youth Group Christmas Party, FH

**Mon., Dec. 11:**

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR
- 6:00: Hildegard Circle meeting, Judy Davis' home (2102 Chestnut Dr.)

**Tues., Dec. 12:**

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Contact Pastor Sarah for link.
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

**Thur., Dec.14:**

- 3:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom
- 5:00: Hangout Hour, *new location for the season* - Moon Hollow Brewing Co. (4237 Prices Fork Rd.)

**Sat., Dec. 16:**

- 4:00 pm: Hot Chocolate & Cheer, gather in FH. See announcements.

**Sun., Dec. 17:** Third Sunday of Advent & Christmas Joy Offering

- 9:00 am: All-Church Christmas Breakfast w/Chimes, FH. See announcements.
  - 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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 separate 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:**

- Sunday School and Youth Group resumes
- 10:30 am: Epiphany worship with Epiphany stars, SNC
- 11:30: Epiphany luncheon, FH