

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation

“... You gave me
What you did not have, and I gave you
What I had to give – together, we made
Something greater from the difference.”

– Alberto Ríos, from “When Giving Is All We Have

Prelude: Improvisation on “As a Chalice Cast of Gold”

INWARD LIGHT
Alice Sanders

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: “Taste and See”
(*Refrain only, sing 2 times*)

TASTE AND SEE
Hymn 520

❖ **Call to Worship**

Grace and peace be with you.

And also with you.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This day and all its possibilities
are God’s free gifts to us.

Generous God,

**make us ready to receive your grace
this morning and every morning.**

Henry & Charlie Wyatt

❖ **Hymn 301:** “Let Us Build a House”

TWO OAKS

(*v. 2 lower voices only, v. 4 higher voices only*)

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

**2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek
to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)**

**3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)**

Scroll down for more . . .

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
our brokenness is too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear and trust the good news: by grace our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

❖ Grateful Response: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy praise.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

NETTLETON
Hymn 475, v. 1

❖ 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 ❖

Sharing Faith with Children

Ben Corl

(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

John 6:5-15, CEB

5 Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" 6 Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do. 7 Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit." 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 9 "A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. 11 Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. 12 When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten. 14 When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world." 15 Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.

Sermon

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 498 (vv. 1,3): "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"**

BEACH SPRING

**1 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven,
was their food forevermore.
By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**3 Loaves are broken, words are spoken,
as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages:
"I am with you; do not fear!"
By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

Minute for Mission: Philippines Mission Trip

Ella Lawrence

Call to Offering

Offertory: "Now the Silence, Now the Peace"

Gerald Near

Now the silence Now the peace Now the empty hands uplifted
Now the kneeling Now the plea Now the Father's arms in welcome
Now the hearing Now the power Now the vessel brimmed for pouring
Now the body Now the blood Now the joyful celebration
Now the wedding Now the songs Now the heart forgiven leaping
Now the Spirit's visitation Now the Son's epiphany Now the Father's blessing
Now Now Now

Then the glory Then the rest Then the sabbath peace unbroken
Then the garden Then the throne Then the crystal fountain flowing
Then the splendor Then the life Then the new creation singing
Then the marriage Then the love Then the feast of joy unending
Then the knowing Then the light Then the ultimate adventure
Then the Spirit's harvest gathered Then the Lamb in majesty
Then the Father's Amen Then Then Then (Jaroslav Vajda)

❖ **Doxology:** “Jesus, Light of Joy”

LAUDA ANIMA

**Jesus, light of joy, surround us; let your splendid glory shine:
source of every earthly blessing, heaven’s everlasting sign.
Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.**

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

Celebration of Communion

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

(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.)

❖ **Hymn of the Table:** “Feed Us, Lord”

FEED US
Hymn 501

**Feed us, Lord.
Feed us, Lord.
In the broken bread, be revealed again.
Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.**

**Quench us, Lord.
Quench us, Lord.
On this thirsty ground, may your love flow down.
Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.**

**Fill us, Lord.
Fill us, Lord,
with the bread and wine of the risen Christ.
Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.**

**Lead us, Lord.
Lead us, Lord,
nourished here by Christ, given strength for life.
Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.**

Invitation to the Feast

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

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.**

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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Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer After Supper

Scroll down for more . . .

❖ **Hymn 42:** "Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure"

1 Your faithfulness, O Lord, is sure
in all your words, your gracious deeds;
you gently lift all burdened souls
and well provide for all our needs.

2 The eyes of all are fixed on you;
by you their wants are all supplied;
your open hand is bountiful
and every soul is satisfied.

3 Lord, you are just in all your ways,
and kind in everything you do;
forever near you stand to hear
and help all those who call on you.

4 My mouth shall speak your praise, O Lord;
my soul shall bless your holy name;
let all things living join the song
of praise, from age to age the same.

❖ **Benediction**

Postlude: "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table"

African-American Spiritual
set by Matthew Corl



Citations: Call to Worship from *Iona Abbey Worship Book, rev. ed.* Prayer of Confession from *Book of Worship, United Church of Christ*. Prayer for Illumination from *Connections Worship Companion, Year A, Vol 1*. 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:** Mike McGilliard

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

Elder Serving Refreshments: Gabe Minnich

The flowers in the sanctuary today are provided by Julie Burger, and Benjamin and Helen Corl to the glory of God and in honor of Clara Corl's 16th birthday.

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

Lost and Found Clean-Up

(Your stuff misses you, too!)

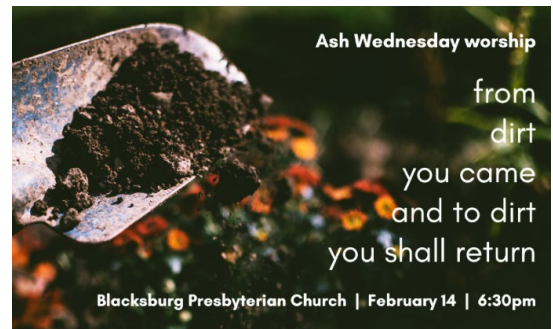
Missing something?
Could you have left it at BPC?

Check the display and coat rack near the elevator to see if any of those items belong to you! After a few weeks, whatever is left will be taken to a thrift shop.

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, Feb. 11, during worship: The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national youth-led program to Tackle Hunger by helping local organizations. Your financial donations, to be collected during worship on February 11 or on BPC's Give page (www.blacksburgpres.org/give), will go to support the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry which serves hundreds of our neighbors each month. Thanks for making it a super Sunday for hungry families!



Our Ash Wednesday service this year (02/14, 6:30pm) will be a meditative service centered around psalms paired with hymns and pieces composed by Felix Mendelssohn. The works by Mendelssohn, including several of his *Songs Without Words* suggest the emotional themes of Ash Wednesday: lament, a longing for help, and trust in God's deliverance. The service will conclude with the imposition of ashes for all who wish to receive.



Congregational Annual Meeting, Feb. 18, after worship: There will be a congregational meeting following worship to receive the 2024 budget and to vote on Pastor Sarah's terms of call. Paper copies of these are included in the 2023 Annual Report which will be available next Sunday, Feb. 11. Digital copies will be accessible the week of Feb. 12 on the BPC website and in the Feb. 14 edition of the *Midweek Update*.



A Loving Lent

Sundays in Lent Feb 25, Mar 3, 10, 17

4:30pm | activities for children
age 3 - 5th grade
5:30 - 6:30pm | dinner for all
6:30pm - 7:30pm | youth group
& adult classes

childcare provided throughout

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

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.-Sun., Feb. 4-11: Pastor Sarah will be out on vacation this week. If you need pastoral care, please contact Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter at emily@blacksburgpres.org.

Sun., Feb. 4: Communion Sunday

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 4:00-5:30 pm: Interfaith Discussion Group, Jewish Community Center (201 Roanoke St.)
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00 pm: *Mere Christianity* book study (*last class*), HCR, with Russell Gregory & Jack Call

Tues., Feb. 6:

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

Wed., Feb. 7:

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

Thur., Feb. 8:

- 3:30-4:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00 pm: Hangout Hour, Moon Hollow Brewery (4237 Prices Fork Rd.). Feel free to just show up.

Sun., Feb. 11:

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- During worship: Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, SNC. See announcements for details.
- 7:00: Sunday Night Discussion Group, HCR. New study begins on *Jesus and the Gospels: An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World*, a Great Courses video lecture by Luke Timothy Johnson, followed by discussion facilitated by Russell Gregory (russellgregor@gmail.com) and Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Feb. 12:

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR

Wed., Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday

- 6:30-7:30 pm: Ash Wednesday worship, SNC. See announcements.

Sun., Feb. 18: UKirk Sunday

- After worship: Congregational Annual Meeting will be held to receive the 2024 budget and to vote on Pastor Sarah's terms of call. See announcements for details.
- 7:00 pm: Session meeting, HCR
- *No meeting this week* - 7:00: Sunday Night Discussion Group - *Jesus and the Gospels*, HCR. Led by Russell Gregory and Jack Call.