

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

MARCH 3, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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: “Faith can never be stagnant, for it will always be stretched beyond its own limits.”

— Robert Kysar

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Celebrating Discipleship

Jenny Fairchild

Prelude: “Adoration”

Florence Price

❖ **Call to Worship**

Karen Watson

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!**

❖ **Psalm of the Day**

Psalm 23, adapted

This I know:

My life is in Your hands.

I have nothing to fear.

I stop,

breathe,

listen.

Beneath the whirl of what is
is a deep down quiet place.
You beckon me to tarry there.

**This is the place
where unnamed hungers
are fed, the place
of clear water,
refreshment.**

My senses stilled,
I drink deeply,
at home
in timeless territory.

**In peril, I remember:
Death’s dark vale holds no menace.
Your eternal presence comforts me.
I am held tenderly.**

In the midst of all that troubles,
that threatens and diminishes,
You set abundance before me.
You lift my head;
my vision clears.
The blessing cup overflows.

This I know:

**You are my home and my hope,
my strength and my solace,
and so shall You ever be.**

❖ Hymn 409: "God Is Here"

1 God is here! As we your people
 meet to offer praise and prayer,
 may we find in fuller measure
 what it is in Christ we share.
 Here, as in the world around us,
 all our varied skills and arts
 wait the coming of the Spirit
 into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
 of our lifelong need of grace;
 here are table, font, and pulpit;
 here the cross has central place.
 Here in honesty of preaching,
 here in silence, as in speech,
 here, in newness and renewal,
 God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome
 in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
 here, as bread and wine are taken,
 Christ sustains us as of old.
 Here the servants of the Servant
 seek in worship to explore
 what it means in daily living
 to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
 in an age of change and doubt
 keep us faithful to the gospel;
 help us work your purpose out.
 Here, in this day's dedication,
 all we have to give, receive:
 we, who cannot live without you,
 we adore you! We believe!

Call to Confession

Eternal God, Maker of the skies above,
 lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,
 unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,

you are present among us.

O hidden mystery,
 sun behind all suns,
 soul within all souls,
 in all we touch, in all we meet,

you are present among us.

As bearers of your image,
 we come to be reshaped;
 dependent on your mercy,
 we ask to be made new.

Prayer of Confession

For the right roads we avoided travelling,
and the kindly words we didn't share;
for the false gods who received our worship
and the true selves we have starved of love,
God, by your grace,
forgive us.

For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly,
and the promises we never kept;
for the careless use of our time and money
and the excuses we never should have made,
God, by your grace,
forgive us.

(Silent prayer)

Hymn 577: "Lord, Have Mercy"

KYRIE ELEISON

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Note: Lower voices may hum.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

For all we should be and all we can amend,
God, in your love, **renew us.**

For all you have in store for us and all you may demand of us,
God, in your love, **prepare us.**

For the life of the world and the love of its people,
God, in your love, **commit us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear and trust these words of Jesus:
Don't be afraid.
Your sins are forgiven.
Come and follow me.
Amen.

❖ 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

Marcia Parks

(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.)

Prayer for Illumination

(Silent Prayer)

Scripture

John 11:1-53

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Frances Taylor Gench

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 810: "When in the Night I Meditate"**

ST. FLAVIAN

**1 When in the night I meditate
on mercies multiplied,
my grateful heart inspires my tongue
to bless the Lord, my guide.**

**2 Forever in my thought, the Lord
before my face shall stand;
secure, unmoved I shall remain,
with God at my right hand.**

**3 My inmost being thrills with joy
and gladness fills my breast;
because on God my trust is stayed,
my flesh in hope shall rest.**

**4 I know that I shall not be left
forgotten in the grave,
and from corruption, you, O Lord,
your holy one will save.**

**5 The path of life you show to me;
of joy a boundless store
is ever found at your right hand,
and pleasures evermore.**

Call to Offering

Offertory: "Be Present at Our Table, Lord"

Robert Lau

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored;
thy creatures bless, and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee.
O fill us with your fullness, Lord, until our very hearts o'erflow
with kindly thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

❖ **Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Hymn 607

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

Celebration of Communion

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter & Rev. Sarah Wiles

(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:** “Let Us Break Bread Together”

LET US BREAK BREAD
Hymn 525, vv. 1-2

**1 Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.**

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

**2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (Refrain)**

Invitation to the Feast

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

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.**

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer After Supper

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ **Hymn 544:** “Bless the Lord”

(Sing three times)

**Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)

❖ **Benediction**

Postlude: “Finale”

Alan Ridout



We're delighted to welcome the Rev. Dr. Frances Taylor Gench as she leads us in worship this morning! Dr. Gench is an ordained minister in the PC(USA) and currently serves as the Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Her research and teaching interests include the Gospels, women in the biblical world, feminist biblical criticism, global and intercultural perspectives on the Bible, and issues of biblical authority and interpretation. She's the author of six books, including *Encounters with Jesus: Studies in the Gospel of John*, which we've been using as a basis for a sermon series and adult education class this winter. Dr. Gench also played a central role in Pastor Emily's preparation for ministry, teaching four of her seminary classes and serving on her ordination commission.

Citations: Psalm of the Day adapted by Carla A. Grosch-Miller. Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Forgiveness from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, rev. ed.

Art: Jesus Mafa. Jesus raises Lazarus to life, from Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48269>. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

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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: Anne and Greg Campbell

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

Elder Serving Refreshments: Rachel Parson

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

Loving Lent has begun! A Loving Lent kicked off this past Sunday, 02/25, and continues through the next three Sundays. Come for some of it or come for all of it. There is something for everyone and every schedule. Make intergenerational community your practice for Lent.

- * **4:30-5:30pm: activities for children ages 3 years old to 5th grade** (nursery care provided)
- * **5:30-6:30pm: potluck dinner for all**
- * **6:30-7:30pm: youth group & adult education** (childcare provided for kids up through 5th grade)

The Loving Lent series includes these topics (Sundays at 6:30, Fellowship Hall):

- * **Tonight:** *Loving Our Neighbors*, a presentation from the Dialogue on Race
- * **03/10:** *Loving One Another* - interacting with people holding differing theological and political opinions
- * **03/17:** *Loving the Church* by learning more about UKirk at VT featuring a spirited game of trivia during dinner!



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., Mar. 3: Communion Sunday

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 4:30-7:30 pm: A Loving Lent, FH. See announcements for details.
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 6:30: Sunday Night Discussion Group, HCR. *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).

Mon., Mar. 4:

- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle, FH

Tues., Mar. 5:

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

Wed., Mar. 6:

- No rehearsal this week - 5:30 pm: Handbell choir rehearsal, FH
- No rehearsal this week - 7:00: Choir rehearsal, choir room

Sun., Mar. 10:

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
 - 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM
 - 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
 - 3:00 pm: Interfaith Reading Group, Jewish Community Center. New book: *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor
 - 4:30-7:30 pm: A Loving Lent, FH. See announcements for details.
 - 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
 - 6:30: Sunday Night Discussion Group, HCR. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World*, a video lecture, with Russell and Jack (see 03/03 above for details).
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun., Mar. 17:

- 11:45 am: Art Forum by Judy Crowgey, WM
- 5:30 pm: Loving Lent with UKirk Trivia Night with potluck, FH
- 7:30: Session meeting, HCR (*note change in start time*)

Fri., Mar. 22:

- 7:30-8:30 pm: Blacksburg Master Chorale concert: *Songs of Resistance and Transcendence*, SNC, performing three moving musical settings that tell stories from the Holocaust camps, the experiences of John Brown and Frederick Douglass, and of a town in Montana that stood together in the face of bigotry and racism.

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Mar. 24: Palm Sunday

- 10:30 am: Worship service
- 11:45: Montgomery County African American Legacy Driving Tour with program. Lunch will be provided. More details to come.

Thur., Mar. 28: Maundy Thursday

- 6:00 pm: Congregational meal and communion for all ages, FH

Fri., Mar. 29: Good Friday

- 7:00 pm: Worship service, SNC

Sun., Mar. 31: Easter Sunday

- 9:00 am: Breakfast for all, provided by Men of the Church, FH
- 10:00 Easter egg hunt, BPC grounds. Bring a basket!
- 10:30: Worship service. Bring flowers for flowering the cross