

# BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

MARCH 31, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

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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:** “It always amazes me to look at the little, wrinkled brown seeds and think of the rainbows in 'em,” said Captain Jim. “When I ponder on them seeds I don't find it nowise hard to believe that we've got souls that'll live in other worlds. You couldn't hardly believe there was life in them tiny things, some no bigger than grains of dust, let alone colour and scent, if you hadn't seen the miracle, could you?” — L.M. Montgomery

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Prelude:** “Prelude to *Te Deum*”

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Jason Crafton, trumpet

**Choral Introit:** “Come, Ye Faithful”

R.S. Thatcher

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness.  
God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness;  
'Tis the spring of souls today, Christ hath burst his prison,  
And from three days sleep in death as a sun has risen.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with a day of splendor,  
With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render.  
Comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection  
Welcomes with unwearied strains Jesu's resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,  
Nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal.  
But today amidst the twelve thou didst stand, bestowing  
That thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.  
St. John of Damascus (8th cent. Greek poet)

❖ **Call to Worship**

Reed Lawrence

Grace and peace be with you. **And also with you.**  
This is the day **that life springs up.**  
This is the day **that love wins.**  
This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

❖ **Hymn 232:** “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

**1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!**  
**our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!**  
**who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!**  
**suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!**  
**unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!**  
**who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!**  
**sinner to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!**  
**our salvation have procured. Alleluia!**  
**Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!**  
**where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!**  
**praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!**  
**Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!**  
**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

Jesus, you taught us to love you, one another, and ourselves.  
But the truth is we often fail at that.  
We turn away from you,  
overwhelmed by a love so vast.  
We turn away from others  
who are poor or oppressed,  
different from us,  
or who don't share our views.  
We turn away from ourselves,  
even though you made us in your image,  
holy and beloved.  
Source of all Mercy,  
forgive us for not loving you, others, and ourselves as well as we could.  
Soften our hearts.  
Reassure us of your love.  
And give us the courage  
to love as you first loved us. *(Silent prayer)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

By grace, we are forgiven. **Alleluia! Amen.**

**Response to God's Grace: "Alleluia!"**

CELTIC ALLELUIA

*(Sing two times)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**❖ 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**

Sarah Windes

*(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.)*

**Handbell Anthem: "Alleluia"**

J. Wayne Kerr

**Prayer for Illumination**

Light of our lives,  
Light of our hearts,  
**open our eyes to your presence with us,  
this morning and always.**  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

**Scripture**

John 20:1-18, CEB

1 Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." 3 Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. 4 They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. 5 Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. 6 Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. 7 He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus'

head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. 8 Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying. 11 Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. 12 She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. 13 The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." 14 As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

For the Spirit of Wisdom in scripture, for the Spirit of Wisdom among us,  
for the Spirit of Wisdom within us, **thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

**Sermon:** Life Springs Up

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 251:** "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"  
(Choir sings verses; congregation sings refrain)

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA

1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.  
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.  
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,  
even from death, dispelling its gloom.

**Refrain:**

**Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!**

2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
until its strength by God was dispersed.  
He who gives life did death undergo,  
and in its conquest his might did show. **(Refrain)**

3 The angel said to them, "Do not fear.  
You look for Jesus who is not here.  
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare.  
Only the grave clothes are lying there." **(Refrain)**

4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.  
He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.  
Even the battle with sin is won." **(Refrain)**

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.  
Alleluia, to him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
he reigns triumphant, heavenly King. **(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.

## Call to Offering

**Offertory:** "Christ is Arisen! Alleluia!"

Wayne Bisbee

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen, our victorious head! Sing his praises!  
Christ is risen from the dead.

Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears;  
Bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.  
See the grave its first fruits giving, springing up from holy ground.  
He was dead, but now is living; he was lost, but he is found.  
Alleluia! John Monsell (19th century)

**Doxology:** "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Hymn 240, refrain & v. 4

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name  
Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name

## ❖Prayer of Dedication

❖BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖Hymn 250: "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

PROMISE

1 In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

## ❖Benediction

**Postlude:** "Trumpet Sonata in D Major"

Henry Purcell



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Today, we welcome guest musician Dr. Jason Crafton, associate professor of trumpet at Virginia Tech.

Citation: Prayer of Confession adapted from *Connections Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1*.

Art: Moyers, Mike. *Be Thou My Vision*, from Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://digital.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57145>. Original source: Mike Moyers, [www.mikemoyersfineart.com/](http://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/).

AV Technicians: Luke Clark (livestream) and Gavin Faulkner (sound) 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:** Anne and Greg Campbell  
**Ushers:** Ben Corl, Helen and Clara Corl, Jack Call, Jennifer Grover  
**Elder Serving Refreshments:** Gabe Minnich

**Headsets for the hard of hearing:** 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@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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## Easter Lilies & One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

**The Spencer Family**, in loving memory of Norrine Bailey Spencer and Andrew Bailey Spencer

**Elva Miller**, in honor of her children and grandchildren

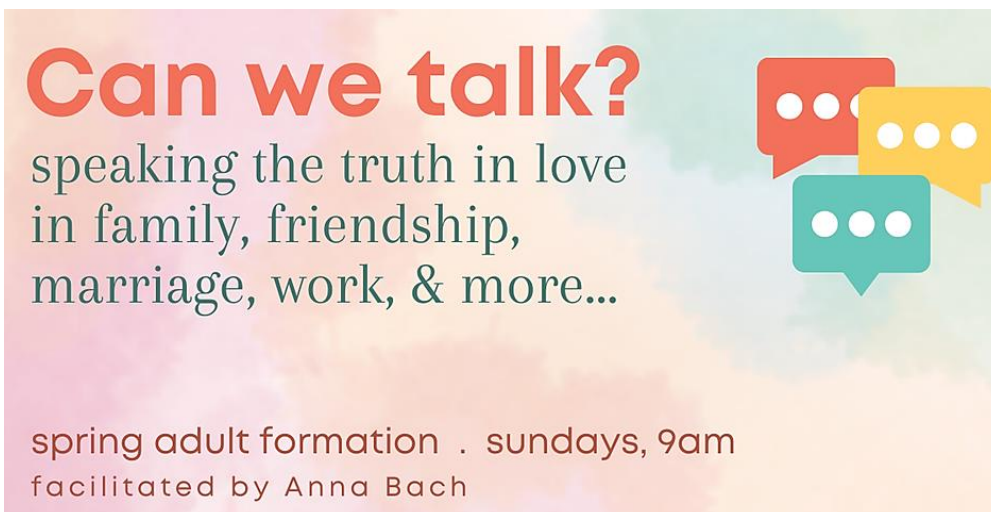
**Elva, Susan, Deborah, and Andrea**, in loving memory of Dr. Herbert A. Miller



**Lilies were also kindly provided by the Helen Judkins Fund.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Can we talk?**  
speaking the truth in love  
in family, friendship,  
marriage, work, & more...

spring adult formation . sundays, 9am  
facilitated by Anna Bach

Sun, April 7, after worship

## A TASTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

with Filipino dishes & dessert

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lunch & presentation  
by leading VT researcher  
Dr. Eranga Galappaththi  
on Indigenous fisheries,  
biodiversity & climate change

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donations will benefit upcoming BPC  
learning trip to the Philippines



# God is love, period.

1 John's radical theology of love

Sundays at BPC . 10:30am . begins Apr 7

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### 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., Mar. 31:** Easter Sunday & One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- *Not meeting tonight* - 7:00: Sunday Night Discussion Group, HCR. *Jesus and the Gospels*, with Russell Gregory and Jack Call. See April 7 for details.

**Mon., Apr. 1:** Easter Monday

- Church office is closed.
- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lyda Circle meeting, FH

**Tues., April 2:**

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Contact Pastor Sarah for link.
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, HCR
- 5:30: Creation Care Team, HCR

**Wed., Apr. 3:**

- No choir rehearsals this week or next.

**Thur., Apr. 4:**

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

**Fri., Apr. 5:**

- 5:00 pm: First Fridays Peace Vigil, downtown post office, 118 N. Main St., Bburg

**Sun., Apr. 7:** Communion Sunday

- 9:00 am: New adult ed class begins on Healthy Communication, facilitated by Anna Bach, WM. See announcements for details.
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: All ages are invited to a "Taste of the Philippines" featuring Filipino dishes and dessert! Your donations will support the upcoming BPC mission trip. Come learn how Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines and around the world experience climate change, biodiversity loss, and discrimination leading to changes in indigenous food systems, and ways of life. See announcements.
- 3:00-5:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, Friends Meeting House (404 Mt. Tabor Rd.)
- 5:30-7:30: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: Sunday Night Discussion Group, HCR. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World*, lecture series, with discussion facilitated by Russell Gregory ([russellgregor@gmail.com](mailto:russellgregor@gmail.com)) and Jack Call ([jcall@radford.edu](mailto:jcall@radford.edu)).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon., Apr. 8:**

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons Meeting, HCR
- 6:00: Hildegard Circle meeting, Marti Snyder's home (609 Kelly Ln)

**Thur., Apr. 11:**

- 3:30-4:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom

**Sat., Apr. 20:**

- 10:00-1:00 pm: All-Church Hike, Heritage Park (rain date: April 27). More details to come.