

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

APRIL 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter Scout Sunday

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: "Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary." – Martin Luther King Jr.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles and Sarah Winde

Welcome to Jim Buggy, Goresbridge Consulting

Prelude: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Easter Hymn

Hannah Erickson, piano

❖ **Call to Worship**

Tess Dickhans and Caleb Erickson

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!

Friends, why are we here?

**We are here to grow in love –
love for God, love for each other.**

We gather to grow in love –

**love that is more than words,
love that is action and truth.**

Love in action takes many forms:

It is being trustworthy and loyal.

It is being helpful, and friendly, and courteous, and kind –

loving strangers just as much as we love those nearest to us.

It is being obedient –

obedient to Love above all, even when love is hard.

It is being cheerful –

**not pretending or faking it,
but celebrating with those who celebrate,
and noticing the good that surrounds us each day.**

It is being thrifty –

**mindful of waste,
using time, food, wealth, and natural resources wisely,
remembering that nothing is truly ours.**

It is being brave –

**which doesn't mean we're never afraid,
but that we choose love, even when it's scary.**

It is being clean –

**honoring our bodies, our community, our natural world,
through care and loving attention,
which sometimes gets awfully messy.**

It is being reverent –

**in awe of galaxies and gnats,
mountains and ant mounds,
the soil under our feet and the sky above,
and each and every person,
wonderfully made, wonderfully different.
Alleluia! Amen.**

❖ **Hymn 410: “God Is Calling through the Whisper”**

1 God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit’s deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

2 God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors’ urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

3 God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – and we hear!
God is calling – and we hear!

Call to Confession

Stewart Laing

Prayer of Confession

Gibson Edwards

Living God,
Jesus taught us how to love you, one another, and ourselves.
We confess that we often fail to embody such love.
We turn away from you,
failing to love and serve you with heart and mind and soul and strength.
We turn away from others
**who are poor and oppressed,
are different from us,
or do not share our views.**
We turn away from ourselves,
**even though you made us in your image
and have claimed us in Christ as your own beloved children.**
Merciful God, forgive us for not always loving you, others, and ourselves.

*(Silent prayer)***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Zoë Wiles

By grace, we are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.

❖ **Passing of the Peace**

Isaac Wiles

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

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.)

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

1 John 3:16-24, CEB

16 This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our siblings. 17 But if someone has material possessions and sees a sibling in need but refuses to help – how can the love of God dwell in a person like that? 18 Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. 19 This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence. 20 Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. 22 We receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love each other as he commanded us. 24 Those who keep his commandments dwell in God and God dwells in them. This is how we know that he dwells in us, because of the Spirit he has given us.

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: Love in Truth and Action

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 822:** "When We Are Living"

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

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.
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Call to Offering

Offertory: "God Be in My Head"

Hal Hopson

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth and in my speaking;
God be in my heart and in my thinking,
God be at mine end and at my departing.
God, make me holy;
Christ, make me holy;
Spirit, make me holy;
Three-all holy. Amen.

- Traditional Celtic Prayer from The Book of Hours, 1514

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

❖BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖Hymn 726: "Will You Come and Follow Me"

KELVINGROVE

**1 "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"**

**2 "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"**

**3 "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"**

**4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"**

**5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

❖Benediction

Postlude: Improvisation on the Dutch hymn KOMT NU MET ZANG

Klass Jan Mulder



Many thanks to the Scouts and Scout leaders who are leading worship today.

Citations: Prayer of Confession from *Connections: Worship Companion, Year B*.

Art: No. 2 (No. 7 and No. 20) by Mark Rothko, c. 1951, WikiArt (fair use). In the artist's words: "I'm interested only in expressing basic human emotions – tragedy, ecstasy, doom, and so on – and the fact that lots of people break down and cry when confronted with my pictures shows that I communicate those . . . The people who weep before my pictures are having the same religious experience I had when I painted them." (from "Mark Rothko on the Transcendent Power of Art and How [Not] to Experience His Paintings" by Maria Popova, themarginalian.org, 02/10/24)

AV Technicians: Luke Clark (livestream) and Gavin Faulkner (sound).

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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: Nancy Furr

Ushers: Greg Campbell, Lois Price, Rachel Parson, and Anne Campbell.

Scouts Assisting: Robert Laing, and James and Autumn Copenhaver

Elder Serving Refreshments: Kyle White.

Scouts Assisting: Silas and Reid Templeton

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

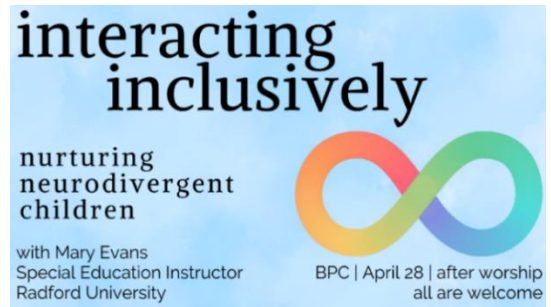
Capital Campaign Feasibility Study: The BPC Session has begun planning for a proposed capital campaign to address three needs that directly impact our mission and ministry:

- Renovation of our ground floor children's classroom and nursery spaces to better serve community ministries like Head Start, PMO, Scouts, as well as our own BPC children each week.
- Restoration of our organ so that we can continue to provide beautiful, moving worship that connects us with God and neighbor every week.
- Necessary maintenance and upgrades to our HVAC systems that will allow us to continue to provide hospitality to our wide range of community partners, as well as our own worship, fellowship, mission, and ministry.



The estimated cost of these projects is \$1,250,000. To plan prudently, we are beginning with a Feasibility Study and will be seeking your thoughts. We have engaged Jim Buggy, of Goresbridge Consulting, to guide us in that work. Watch for more details to come.

Join us today after worship for Interacting Inclusively, FH: Mary Evans, a special education instructor at Radford University, will speak of ways to give extra support to children who need it, recognize when to step in (or not), and share ideas on diffusing difficult situations. You won't walk away as an expert, but you will learn a few tricks, gain confidence in helping kids, and have a new perspective on what it means to have a brain that functions differently than yours. Snacks and childcare will be provided.



**interacting
inclusively**
nurturing
neurodivergent
children
with Mary Evans
Special Education Instructor
Radford University
BPC | April 28 | after worship
all are welcome

Bread for the World Offering of Letters at BPC, Sun., May 5: Pass a Family-Friendly and Climate-Friendly Farm Bill. The Farm Bill is the most significant piece of legislation concerning our national food system. Its role is indispensable in our ongoing effort against hunger, affecting countless lives both domestically and internationally, as well as our response to climate change. You have two options: If you wish to send a handwritten letter or postcard, you can pick up addresses of our members of Congress or postcards in a small basket in the Gathering Space on Sunday, May 5. You can also go to bread.org/page/62477/action/1 to get more info and to send your email today!

THIS WEEK

All activities are open to everyone.

Contact Rhonda at rhonda@blacksburgpres.org for more information.

Sun., Apr. 28: Scout Sunday

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- After worship: Interacting Inclusively with Mary Evans, a special education instructor at Radford University, FH. Snacks and childcare will be provided, FH. See announcements.
- 5:30 pm: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR
- *No meeting today - 7:00 pm: 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) and Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu).*

Tues., Apr. 30:

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

Wed., May 1:

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

Thur., May 2:

- 5:00-6:00 pm: Hangout Hour. Rising Silo (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to show up.

Fri., May 3:

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

Sun., May 5-Sat., May 12: Pastor Sarah will be away for continuing education.

Sun., May 5:

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- Bread for the World Offering of Letters - see announcements for details.
- 5:30 pm: Youth Group, FH
- 7:00 pm: 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) and Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., May 6:

- 12:00 pm: Lydia Circle meeting, FH (*note change in start time*)

Sun., May 12:

- 3:00-5:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, Unitarian Universalist Con. (*Change in date*)

Mon., May 13:

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR
- 6:00: Hildegard Circle meeting, TBA

Sun., May 19: Pentecost Sunday

- 9:00 am: Last Sunday School class for children and youth.
- 10:30: During worship, we will celebrate our graduating seniors.
- 7:00 pm: Session meeting, HCR

Sat., May 25:

- 2:00 pm: Memorial Service for Barbara Michelsen with reception to follow, SNC
- BPC team travels to the Philippines

Mon., May 27:

- Memorial Day - church office is closed.
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