

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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: “Once again, God has a purpose. A desire. A goal. And God never stops pursuing it. Jesus tells a series of parables in Luke 15 about a woman who loses a coin, a shepherd who loses a sheep, and a father who loses a son. The stories aren’t ultimately about things and people being lost; the stories are about things and people being found. The God that Jesus teaches us about doesn’t give up until everything that was lost is found. This God simply doesn’t give up. Ever.” — Rob Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles and Sarah Windes

Prelude: Pastorale on "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Paul Manz

❖ **Call to Worship**

Glenn Sanders

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!

We gather to be reminded,

reminded that the heart of the cosmos is love.

We gather to be rooted,

rooted and grounded in love.

We gather to proclaim,

that nothing—

nothing living or dead,

angelic or demonic,

today or tomorrow,

high or low,

thinkable or unthinkable

—absolutely *nothing* can separate us from the love of God.

Alleluia! Amen.

❖ **Hymn 2: “Come, Thou Almighty King”**

ITALIAN HYMN

1 Come, thou almighty King,

help us thy name to sing;

help us to praise:

Father, all glorious,

o'er all victorious,

come, and reign over us,

Ancient of Days.

2 Come, thou incarnate Word,

merciful, mighty Lord,

our prayer attend.

Come, and thy people bless,

and give thy word success;

Spirit of holiness,

on us descend.

3 Come, holy Comforter,

thy sacred witness bear

in this glad hour.

Thou who almighty art,

now rule in every heart,

and ne'er from us depart,

Spirit of power.

Scroll down for more . . .

4 To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be,
hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of love, bring new life where we are worn and tired;
new love where we have turned hard-hearted;
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners
of ourselves.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

By grace, we are forgiven.
Alleluia! 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

(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.)

Rev. Sarah Wiles

Anthem: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

English song tune
arr. Lawrence Keating

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found him in a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till traveling days are done.

- Horatius Bonar, 1836

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched,
my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

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 4:1; 5:4 (Inclusive Bible Translation)

Beloved,
let us love one another
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is born of God
and has knowledge of God.

And everyone born of God
conquers the world,
and the power that has conquered the world
is our faith.

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 Wins

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 379: "We Shall Overcome"**

WE SHALL OVERCOME

**1 We shall overcome;
we shall overcome;
we shall overcome someday.**

**Refrain:
O, deep in my heart
I do believe
we shall overcome someday!**

**2 We'll walk hand in hand;
we'll walk hand in hand;
we'll walk hand in hand someday. (Refrain)**

**3 We shall live in peace;
we shall live in peace;
we shall live in peace someday. (Refrain)**

**4 We are not afraid;
we are not afraid;
we are not afraid today. (Refrain)**

**5 God will see us through;
God will see us through;
God will see us through today. (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.
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Call to Offering

Offertory: "Laudate nomen Domini"

Christopher Tye

O come, ye servants of the Lord, and praise God's holy name.
From early morn to setting sun, God's might on earth proclaim.
God's laws are just, make glad the heart; God's mercy is made known.
Ye princes, come, ye people too, and bow before God's throne.

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

OLD HUNDREDTH
Hymn 607

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

❖Prayer of Dedication

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖Hymn 687: "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

1 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

❖Benediction

Postlude: "Psalm 19"

Benedetto Marcello



Citations: Prayer of Confession from *Stages on the Way*.

Art: *Violet, Black, Orange, Yellow on White and Red* by Mark Rothko, 1949, 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: Ben Corl

Ushers: Darrell Bosch, and Gillian, Natasha, and Todd Lowe

Elder Serving Refreshments: Elizabeth Day

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





Pentecost is when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to all of God's people speaking diverse languages.

- You can wear red to worship to remember how the Spirit spread to inhabit the crowd in a gust of wind and tongues of flame.
- Children will share joy by leading a festive procession with red ribbons and singing.
- BPC will commission five youth and nine adults as they head to the Philippines to learn about our siblings in Christ with mission coworkers Cobbie and Dessa Palm.
- Sunday school teachers at all levels will be recognized for fanning the flames of faith throughout the year.
- High school seniors will be presented with a knotted fleece prayer blanket made by BPC's Youth Group.

Pentecost Offering, Sunday, May 19: We celebrate Pentecost Sunday on May 19 with a special Pentecost Offering specifically for children and youth. We are pleased that the 40% of the offering that stays with our congregation this year will be forwarded to the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership (BRP), a local non-profit that works to make a difference in the lives of children in our community who have experienced the tragedies of war and loss. These children experience institutional poverty, health inequity, nutritional insecurity, limited developmental and social opportunity, as well as language and educational barriers.

The BRP routinely pairs the children with educational tutors and mentors. These volunteers do the following: assist with safe housing, engage the children in both fun and learning experiences, arrange for healthcare, provide childcare, and assist with family transportation to necessary appointments.

Our contribution will help support the work of these volunteers and will help improve the lives of these families and children. Please give as your heart and the Holy Spirit lead you to give. Two ways to donate: Place cash or a check made out to BPC with Pentecost Offering in the memo line in the offering plate (Pentecost envelopes are in the pews), or go to the [BPC Give page](#) and select Pentecost Offering from the dropdown menu.



THIS WEEK

All activities are open to everyone.

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

Sun., May 12:

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 3:00-5:00 pm: Interfaith Reading Group, Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- 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) and Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu).

Mon., May 13:

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

Tues., May 14:

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

Wed., May 15:

- 5:30 pm: Handbell choir rehearsal, FH (*last rehearsal before hiatus*)
- 7:00: Choir rehearsal, choir room

Thur., May 16:

- 5: 00-7:00 pm: Presbyterian Women Social during the Hangout Hour, Rising Silo (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to drop by between 5-7pm. See announcements.

Sun., May 19: Day of Pentecost

- Pentecost Offering and Cents-Ability Offering
- 9:00 am: Last Sunday School for children, youth, and adults (various rooms)
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC. During worship, we'll celebrate our graduating seniors.
- 5:30 pm: Youth Group–End of the Year Party, FH
- 7:00: Session meeting, HCR
- *Not meeting* - 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) and Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., May 20:

- 6:00 pm: Hildegard Circle meeting, Nancy Alexander's home (709 Burruss Dr., NW)
- 7:00: Congregational Care meeting, Zoom

Thur., May 23: 6:00 pm: Faith Circle dinner, Moon Hollow Brewing, (4237 Prices Fork)

Sat., May 25:

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

Sun., May 26: 10:30: Service of Hymns for Trinity Sunday

Mon., May 27: Memorial Day - church office is closed.

Sun., July 14-Wed. July 17, 5:30-8:00pm: Save the date for VBS!



For more information, contact
Susan Hunter at
susanh@blacksburgpres.org.