

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

May 19, 2024

Day of Pentecost

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: “My world is one interwoven web of words, stringing limb to limb, bone to sinew, thoughts and images all together.” — Tahereh Mafi

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles and Sarah Windes

Prelude: “Pedalpoint and Passacaglia”

Hal Hopson

Processional Hymn: “I’m Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”
(Please remain seated until the last verse.)

1. I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing (*sing 3 times*)
And obey the Spirit of the Lord.
2. I'm gonna pray . . .
3. I'm gonna dance . . .
4. I'm gonna sing . . .

❖ **Call to Worship**

Susan Barnard

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 is the story we tell of how the church started:

Fifty days after Easter, everyone was together.

Suddenly:

a deafening roar of wind

Suddenly:

flames of inspiration

Suddenly:

**every language under the sky
speaking, shouting, rejoicing!**

Filled with the Spirit

Our old ones will dream dreams!

Our young ones will see visions!

All God’s children will prophesy!

Come, friends, let us breathe deeply the breath of life
as we worship this morning.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Generous God,

you send us the Spirit of courage,

but we have been afraid.

You send us the Spirit of truth,

but we cling to our illusions.

You send us the Spirit of healing,

but we cannot let go of our hurts.

Holy Spirit of forgiveness,

come to us again:

shake our hearts, set our souls on fire with your love:

send us out into the world rejoicing in your power.

We hold out to you

all our particular burdens of guilt and sin,

and we ask for your help

to live the life of the Spirit.

(*Silent prayer*)

Assurance of Forgiveness

By grace, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

Grateful Response (Hymn 582, v. 1): "Glory to God"

GLORY TO GOD

(Sing twice)

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. 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

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.)

Blessing of the Graduates

Jordan Boffen
Connor McFall

Gracie Byron
Nataleigh Pienkowski

Gratitude for Teachers

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Ezekial 37:1-14, Common English Bible

1 The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. 2 He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry. 3 He asked me, "**Human one, can these bones live again?**" I said, "Lord God, only you know." 4 He said to me, "**Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord's word!**" 5 **The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. 6 I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord.**" 7 I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. 8 When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them. 9 He said to me, "**Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live.**" 10 I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company. 11 He said to me, "**Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.'**" 12 **So now, prophecy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I'm opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel's fertile land. 13 You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. 14 I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I've spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says."**

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!

Sermon: Speak Life

Rev. Sarah Wiles

Scroll down for more . . .

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 286:** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

TRENTHAM

**1 Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.**

**3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

**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.**

Minute for Mission

Deb Call

Call to Offering

Offertory: "As the Wind Song"

Swhee Hong Lim

As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power
to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love
to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

- Shirley Erena Murray, 2004

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.**

❖ **Prayers of Dedication and Commissioning Travelers to the Philippines**

Angela, Leif, and Søren Anderson	Julie Burger and Clara Corl
Elizabeth Day	Mary Lee Hendricks
Susan and John Hunter	Ella Lawrence
Rachel Parson	Liz and Eli Scott
Sarah Wiles	

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ **Hymn 280: “Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”**

EBENEZER

1 Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;
come with Pentecostal power;
give the church a stronger vision;
help us face each crucial hour.
Built upon a firm foundation,
Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,
still the church is called to mission
that God's love shall be made known.

2 We would raise our alleluias
for the grace of yesteryears;
for tomorrow's unknown pathway,
hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.
In the church's pilgrim journey
you have led us all the way;
still in presence move before us,
fire by night and cloud by day.

3 Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;
give us words of fire and flame.
Help our feeble lips to praise you,
glorify your holy name.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Three in One: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas
now and through eternity.

❖ **Benediction**

Postlude: “Dry Bones”

Traditional Spiritual
set by Michael Ware



Citation: Prayer of Confession from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*.
Art: Kossowski, Adam. *Veni Sancti Spiritus*, (Come, Holy Spirit), from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56946>. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/8750321716> - Fr Lawrence Lew, O.P.
AV Technicians: Luke Clark (livestream) and Gavin Faulkner (sound).
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Scroll down for more . . .

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: Craig and Sarah Woolsey, Tom and Judy Pospichal

Elder Serving Refreshments: Susan Bailey

The flowers for the sanctuary today are provided by Catherine Snyder to the glory of God and in honor of Andrew Snyder-Beattie's baptismal anniversary.

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 *Mid-Week 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 Offering: We celebrate Pentecost Sunday with a special Pentecost Offering specifically for children and youth. Information about how the offering will be used can be found in the bulletin insert today. We are pleased that the 40% of the offering that stays with our congregation this year will be forwarded to 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.

A child who is embraced by friends, family, and community will have a better capacity to overcome adversity. We at BPC can help. 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.



Imagine...

the next generation of ministry at BPC

As we plan for the future, we want to hear from you. Share your priorities and dreams by filling out the feasibility study survey. The link is below.



The BPC session has begun planning for a proposed capital campaign to address needs that directly impact our mission and ministry.

We're beginning with a feasibility study, and we want to hear from you. What are your hopes for our congregation? What are your priorities? What are your concerns? How would you like to see us expand our ministries in the years to come?

Please take a few minutes to respond to the online questionnaire by the end of the month. The link is in the weekly *Midweek Update* email. If you've already had a conversation with our consultant, you do not need to respond to the questionnaire. We only need one response per household.

THIS WEEK

All activities are open to everyone.

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

Sun., May 19:

- Pentecost Offering and Cents-Ability Offering
- 9:00 am: Last Sunday School for children, youth, and adults
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC. During worship, we'll celebrate our graduating seniors.
- 5:30 pm: Youth Group – End of the Year Party, FH
- *Not meeting tonight* - 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 20:

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

Tues., May 21:

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

Wed., May 22:

- 7:00: Choir rehearsal, choir room (*last rehearsal before summer hiatus*)

Thur., May 23:

- 5:00 pm: Hangout Hour, Rising Silo (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to just show up.
- 6:00 pm: Faith Circle Get-Together, 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 and returns June 5.

Sun., May 26: Trinity Sunday

- 10:30: Worship – A Service of Hymns and Readings for Trinity Sunday, SNC. Join us for a service of scripture, poetry, and music led by our BPC Choir, cantor Mary Sanders Bracy, and organist Alice Sanders.
- 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 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.

Thur., July 25: Save the date!

- 7:00 pm: A Treasury of English Choral Music: A Community Sing with Dr. Larry Wyatt, conductor, BPC. Part of the Blacksburg Summer Arts Festival. If interested in participating, you can sign up at bit.ly/BBurgSummerArts24.
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