

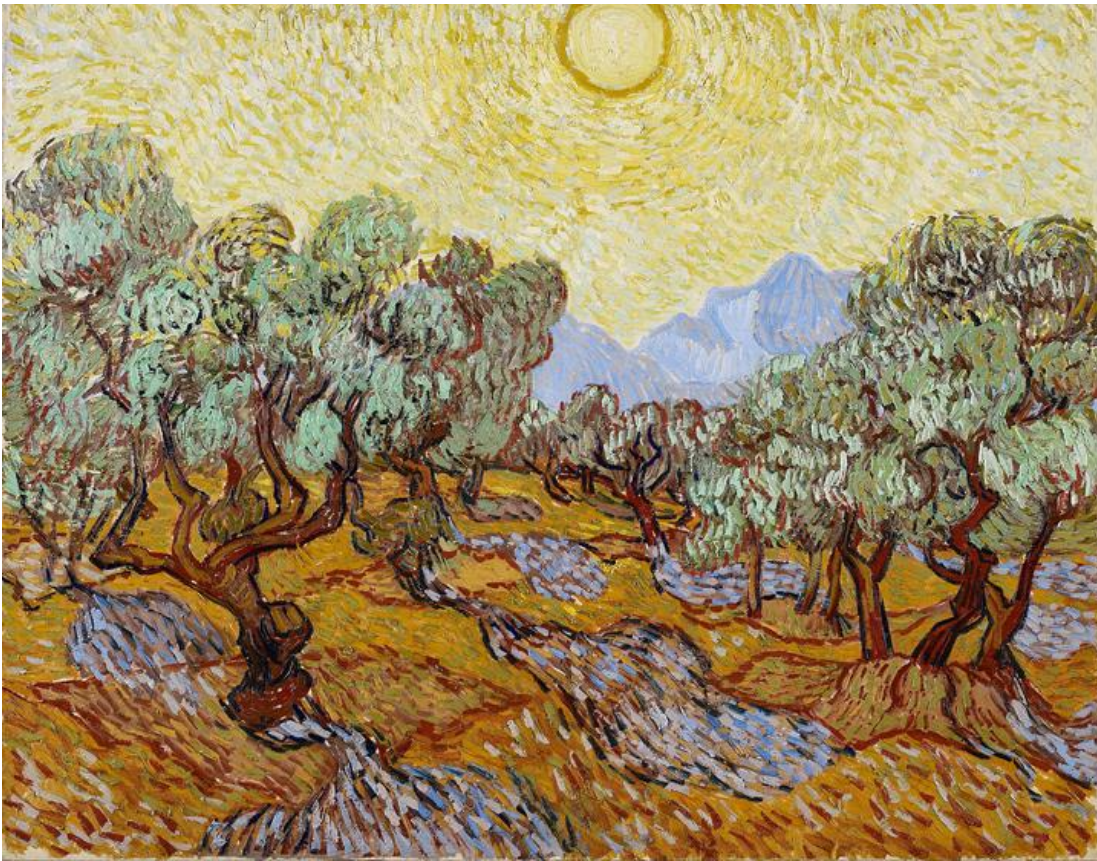
BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

MARCH 24, 2024

PALM and PASSION 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: “God is not in heaven; God is hanging on the cross. Love is not an otherworldly, intruding, self-asserting power – and to meditate on the cross can mean to take leave of that dream.” –Dorothy Soelle

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Minute for Mission

Julie Burger

Prelude: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

set by Georg Kaufman

❖ **Call to Worship**

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!**

Angela Anderson

❖ **Opening Scripture**

John 12:12-15

The great crowd that had come for the festival

heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

They took palm branches and went out to meet him.

They shouted,

“**Hosanna!**

Blessings on the one

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the king of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

Don't be afraid, Daughter Zion.

Look! Your king is coming,

sitting on a donkey's colt.

❖ **Hymn 196:** “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Gillian Lowe, Sonja Anderson, and Molly Andrews

Refrain:

All glory, laud, and honor

to thee, Redeemer, King,

to whom the lips of children

made sweet hosannas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Israel,

thou David's royal Son,

who in the Lord's name comest,

the King and blessed One. (Refrain)

2 The people of the Hebrews

with palms before thee went;

our praise and prayers and anthems

before thee we present. (Refrain)

3 To thee, before thy passion,

they sang their hymns of praise;

to thee, now high exalted,

our melody we raise. (Refrain)

4 Thou didst accept their praises;

accept the prayers we bring,

who in all good delightest,

thou good and gracious King! (Refrain)

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, your ways seem strange to us.
You march in like a king going to war,
but you proclaim peace.
You say that to save our lives,
we have to give them up.
You keep on loving,
even when it costs you everything.

We confess that we're scared —
scared to love that much,
scared that we might not get our way,
scared that we might lose everything.

Forgive us.
Cast out our fear, and enter in.
Make us more like you.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Even from the cross, at the mercy of our worst, Jesus spoke forgiveness.
He said, "**Forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.**"

Friends, trust this forgiveness. It covers all we could possibly do.
By grace, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to Christ.

❖ 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.)

Prayer for Illumination

(Silent Prayer)

Scripture

John 18-19, selected verses, CEB

Judas brought a company of soldiers and some guards from the chief priests and Pharisees. They came there carrying lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus knew everything that was to happen to him, so he went out and asked, "**Who are you looking for?**"

They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene."

He said to them, "**I Am.**" When he said, "I Am," they shrank back and fell to the ground. He asked them again, "**Who are you looking for?**"

They said, "Jesus the Nazarene."

Jesus answered, "**I told you, 'I Am.' If you are looking for me, then let these people go.**"

Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the guards from the religious leaders took Jesus into custody. The chief priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered, "**I've always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where everyone gathers. I've said nothing in private. Why ask me? Ask those who heard what I told them.**"

Then the Jewish leaders led Jesus to the Roman governor's palace. Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charge do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If he had done nothing wrong, we wouldn't have handed him over to you." Pilate responded, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your Law." The Jewish leaders replied, "The Law doesn't allow us to kill anyone." (This was so that Jesus' word might be fulfilled when he indicated how he was going to die.) Pilate summoned Jesus and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, **“My kingdom doesn’t originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn’t have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn’t from here.”**

“So you are a king?” Pilate said.

Jesus answered, **“You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice.”**

“What is truth?” Pilate asked. Then Pilate had Jesus taken and whipped. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. Over and over they went up to him and said, “Greetings, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

When Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here’s the man.” When the chief priests and their deputies saw him, they shouted out, “Crucify, crucify! We have a Law, and according to this Law he ought to die because he made himself out to be God’s Son.” When Pilate heard this word, he was even more afraid. He went back into the residence and spoke to Jesus, “Where are you from?” Jesus didn’t answer. So Pilate said, “You won’t speak to me? Don’t you know that I have authority to release you and also to crucify you?”

Jesus replied, **“You would have no authority over me if it had not been given to you from above.”** From that moment on, Pilate wanted to release Jesus.

However, the Jewish leaders cried out, saying, “If you release this man, you aren’t a friend of the emperor! Anyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes the emperor!” Pilate responded, “What? Do you want me to crucify your king?” “We have no king except the emperor,” the chief priests answered. Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus prisoner. Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, *Golgotha*). That’s where they crucified him. Jesus’ mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, **“Here is your son.”** Then he said to the disciple, **“Here is your mother.”** And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, **“I am thirsty.”** A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, **“It is completed.”** Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

Sermon: The Cost of Love

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ❖

❖ **Hymn 223:** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

**1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing Minute for Mission

Deb Call

Call to Offering

Offertory: "There in God's Garden"

K. Lee Scott

(Follow text for hymn 226; stand to join choir in singing v. 6)

1 There in God's garden
stands the tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth
the healing of the nations:
tree of all knowledge,
tree of all compassion,
tree of all beauty.

4 See how its branches
reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says,
"Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness;
give me all your sorrow;
I will give blessing."

2 Its name is Jesus,
name that says, "Our Savior!"
There on its branches
see the scars of suffering;
see there the tendrils
of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.

5 This is my ending;
this, my resurrection;
into your hands,
Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

3 Thorns not its own are
tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it;
our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives!
its grief has not destroyed it
nor fire consumed it.

6 All heaven is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it; take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

❖Prayer of Dedication

❖BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖Hymn 213: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

RATHBUN

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'er-take me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.

Scroll down for more . . .

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

5 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

❖Benediction

Postlude: "There is a Green Hill Far Away"

set by Healey Willan



Art: Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. Olive Trees, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56501>. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vincent_van_Gogh_-_Olive_Trees_\(Minneapolis_Institute_of_Arts\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vincent_van_Gogh_-_Olive_Trees_(Minneapolis_Institute_of_Arts).jpg).
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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: Greg Campbell, Lois Price, Rachel Parson, Anne Campbell
Elder Serving Refreshments: Russell Gregory

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.

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

PALM SUNDAY COMMUNITY AWARENESS ACTIVITY

Montgomery County
African American Legacy Tour
Sunday, March 25, 11:45am

Meet in Fellowship Hall at BPC for a brief video and simple lunch before heading out on a driving tour to eight historical sites in Christiansburg. These are places that help us rediscover the histories and stories of African American experiences, from slavery to Civil Rights. We will end at the Christiansburg Dairy Queen for processing the experience.

Family-friendly, rain or shine!



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

March 24: worship 10:30am
local african american legacy tour after worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28: family-friendly supper & worship 6pm

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29: worship 7pm
music, poetry, scripture & silence

EASTER

March 31: breakfast 9am, egg hunt 10am, worship 10:30am

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Can we talk?

speaking the truth in love
in family, friendship,
marriage, work, & more...



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

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. 24: Palm and Passion Sunday

- 9:00 am: Children and Youth Sunday School, various rooms
- 9:00: Adult Sunday School, WM. Last meeting of Bread of Life class.
- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
- 11:45: Montgomery County African American Legacy Driving Tour. Meet in Fellowship Hall for a brief program and lunch before the tour. See announcements.
- 3:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- 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, followed by discussion facilitated by Russell Gregory (russellgregor@gmail.com) and Jack Call (jcall@radford.edu).

Mon., Mar. 25:

- 1:00-3:00 pm: Knitwits, WM

Tues., Mar. 26:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study, Zoom. Contact Pastor Sarah for link.
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, HCR
- *Meeting on Tuesday this month* – 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle, Sarah Woolsey's home

Wed., Mar. 27:

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

Thur., Mar. 28: Maundy Thursday

- 6:00 pm: Maundy Thursday, congregational meal & communion for all ages, FH. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall around tables to break bread, have fellowship, and worship. Contact Gabe Minnich (gaaminnich@gmail.com) for ways to contribute.

Fri., Mar. 29: Good Friday

- Church office is closed.
- 7:00 pm: Good Friday worship service, SNC. We'll have a contemplative service of scripture, poetry, and a choral meditation on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

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

- 9:00 am: Community 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 and your One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes and donations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Apr. 1: Easter Monday

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

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.
- 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. Dr. Eranga Galappaththi and his team at VT's Indigenous Resilience & Innovation Lab will help us understand the problems facing farmers and fisherfolk, as they develop sustainable adaptations including indigenous knowledge.

Sun, April 7, after worship

A TASTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

with Filipino dishes & dessert

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

donations will benefit upcoming BPC
learning trip to the Philippines

