



Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

† Please stand in body or in spirit.

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

“Grace, like water, flows to the lowest part.” – Phillip Yancy

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

The Prayers of the People are written by the congregation and read aloud as our corporate prayer. If you want to take part, write a one sentence prayer on the cards provided.

No signatures, please. The cards will be collected during the second hymn.

Together we pray whatever is on our hearts.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Catherine Taylor

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you. ... *(All are encouraged to sign the Friendship Pad in the pews. If you are a first-time visitor and leave an address, we can welcome you more fully.)*

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace
Elizabeth Crone, flute

arr. BILL HOLCOMBE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Elva Miller

Rejoice in the abundance of God's steadfast love.

God has blessed us beyond all deserving!

Come to worship the one true God.

God promises to dwell with us.

The glory of God fills the place where we are;

We will feast on God's presence together!

† HYMN No. 386

Come, Worship God

O QUANTA QUALIA

† PRAYER OF APPROACH

Your ways, O God, surprise us, for your standards are not our own. We want quick results, while you work patiently for steady transformation. We seek to comprehend within narrow limits, but you come to us to broaden our horizons. We dare to worship what we cannot see because Christ has demonstrated that your love is real. Love us now into becoming all we are meant to be. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others. We judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive us, we pray, when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. May we ask once again for your mercy? Will you help us to be more merciful toward one another? We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved. ... (A time of silent confession follows.) In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God extends grace beyond our ability to earn it.

And grants us the privilege of believing in Christ;

Therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people!

Thanks be to God!

† GRATEFUL RESPONSE No. 649 v. 1

AMAZING GRACE

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus 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 1st grade age and up are invited to remain in the sanctuary. Parents may take kindergarten and younger children downstairs to God's Garden or the nursery for nurture and care.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 105* arr. J. S. ANTHONY
(Please see insert.)

ANTHEM *Let Streams of Living Justice* GUSTAVE HOLST,
Adult Choir text by William Whitla

Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth
The hungry's hands are pleading, the worker's claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight

For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together, knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time unroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.

Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language; we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice, your way- the path untried;
your truth- the heart of stranger; your life- the Crucified.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON "Grace Upon Grace" Dr. Catherine Taylor

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN No. 649 vv. 2-5 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER The Congregation

MINUTE FOR MISSION Peacemaking Offering Scott Smith

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY *Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring* J.S. BACH
Chorale from Cantata No. 147 arr. PATRICK LIEBERGEN
Elizabeth Crone, flute

Jesu, joy of [our] desiring, Holy wisdom, love most high.
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned.
Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying round Thy throne.

† DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN No.546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Jonathan Elmore, piano

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FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 105

arr. J. S. ANTHONY

Refrain (Joyful Noise):

*O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds among the peoples.*

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Refrain

Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones. Refrain

Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

Egypt was glad when they departed,
for dread of them had fallen upon it.

He spread a cloud for a covering,
and fire to give light by night.
They asked, and he brought quails,
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.
For he remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, his servant. Refrain

So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.
He gave them the lands of the nations,
that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD! Refrain

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Welcome to all who gather for worship today. May each of us know something of God's grace and be moved toward deeper faith, sincere love, and service following Christ. No matter who you are, or what you are seeking, you are welcome here. **If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to explore all that happens in life and ministry in this church.**

We are grateful for so many people today: Elva Miller who is our liturgist, Jonathan Elmore who will be accompanying us during worship while we conduct a search for a new Music Director. We are pleased to have Amy Cowan as our Interim Choir Director. Thank you to Elizabeth Crone for enriching worship with her beautiful music.

THE CELEBRATION FLOWERS in worship are sponsored by the Spencer family in loving memory of Norrine Bailey Spencer.

A Few Celebration Flower dates are still available: Oct. 15 and Dec. 31. Please let Sherry know if you would like to sponsor one of these dates by email to sherry@blacksburgpres.org. Please include the date you'd like to sponsor, color preferences, and what you would like to have printed in the bulletin. You may order an arrangement by Best Wishes, which will cost \$50, or you may wish the Flower Committee to make an arrangement for you, cost \$50, or elect to have the Peace Lilies in worship and donate the cost to a church program or charity of your choice.

Creation Care thought: "We do not inherit the land from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." – Native American Proverb

Fall Art Exhibit in Westminster Hall: Lucas Cranach, Artist of the Reformation with Bob Hendricks. One of the ways we remember the Reformation from 500 years ago is by the art work of Lucas Cranach the Elder, considered the most successful German artist of his time. He was a close friend of Martin Luther and he embraced the protestant reformation with enthusiasm. We are privileged to have the excellent photography of Bob Hendricks, who has studied and photographed Cranach's work. Bob will display his photos in Westminster Hall through November with an **Art Forum –TODAY- Sept. 24 following worship.**

Mark your calendars! A series of **New Member Classes** have been held and the participants have been invited to join the church this morning in the Prayer Room from 9:00—10:00 a.m.

We are delighted that so many are visiting our church. Please greet warmly all those you may not know, and encourage them to take part in our lively congregation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kendra Crabtree at 552-2504, or e-mail her at kendra@blacksburgpres.org.

Peacemaking Doodle Poster

A coloring poster, provided by the PCUSA National office in Louisville, KY, is set up outside the Fellowship Hall for the rest of September. Take some time to pause, add some color and pray for peace.

This original artwork, designed for the 2017 Season of Peace by the folks at Illustrated Children's Ministry, is based on Ephesians 2: 14-17 and features the text "Peace to those who are near and those who are far away." The wings of the dove have the word "peace" in 5 languages – Hebrew, Arabic, Spanish, Korean and English.

The MRF NAACP 42nd Freedom Fund Banquet will be held Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6 pm at the Inn of VA Tech and Conference Center. Our theme is "Meeting the New Challenges," and our guest speaker is Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, Virginia Tech. We look forward to hearing a powerful message, providing you with a wonderful meal, awarding presentations and networking with one another. Reservations are required. **BPC has a couple of tickets left for a contribution of \$50 each. Call the church office (552-2504) if you would like to reserve a ticket.** All are welcome.

SERVING TODAY

Church Opener: Nancy Furr
Elder of the Week: **Today:** Jack Call **Mon-Sunday:** Ami Jo
Ushers: Larry Bechtel, Bob and Joni Pienkowski
Counters: Mike McGilliard and Dorothy Domermuth

THIS WEEK AT BPC - HCR-Hatcher Conference Room, WM-Westminster, FH-Fellowship Hall

Sept. 24 Membership Class at 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Room
 SHIFT small groups meet at 9:00 a.m.
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
 Worship at 10:30 a.m.
 Art Forum with Bob Hendricks following worship – WM
 Youth Group meets at 5:30-7:30 p.m. at BPC for Dinner & Discussion

Sept. 25 KnitWits gather at 1:00 p.m. – WM
 Staff meets at 1:30 p.m. – HCR

Sept. 26 Tuesday Morningstars Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.- HCR
 Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. – FH
 Prayer Group meets at 11:00 a.m. – Prayer Room- All are welcome!

Sept. 27 Caring for the Community at 9:30 a.m. – HCR
 SHIFT Small Groups meet at 6:00 p.m. – dinner at 5:30 p.m.
 Adult Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Sept. 30 Memorial Service for Charlie O'Dell at 2:00 p.m. with reception to follow

October **Global Missions Focus**

Oct. 1 Membership Class at 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Room
 SHIFT small groups meet at 9:00 a.m.
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
 Worship at 10:30 a.m. with Communion
 BPC's Peacemaking Offering

Fair Trade Items available after worship in Gathering Space
Youth Group meets 5:30-7:30 p.m. for “Bake & Take” for local emergency services

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Oct. 9 Presbyterian Women Reception at 6:30 p.m. – FH
- Oct. 15 Session meets at 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 29 Fallapalooza at 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. with Spaghetti dinner to benefit CROP Walk at 5:00 p.m.

Proclaim the Peace of Christ

As millions flee violence and persecution in South Sudan, they and others are striving for peace in villages, refugee camps, and at the highest levels of power.

Give to the Peace & Global Witness Offering to support those working to share the dream of peace, and reconciliation around the world, as proclaimed by the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Image on front: Public murals that encourage peacemaking are created by AnaTaban (meaning “I am tired”), a community of young South Sudanese creatives who are tired of seeing their South Sudanese people suffer.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

-  Through your congregation
-  Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10
-  presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global

Sources:

1. “Crisis in South Sudan.” U n i c e f U S A . Web. May 31, 2017.
2. “More than one million children flee South Sudan violence.” U N H C R . Web. May 31, 2017.

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A Persistent Dream of Peace



PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



South Sudan won its independence in 2011. But within a few years, this young country's hope and celebration turned to violent political infighting.

As violence spread across the country, millions of people fled their homes and villages—people like John Khamis (pictured above), a clergyman and trauma specialist who works with RECONCILE, an ecumenical organization that works for a peaceful and democratic society in South Sudan.

John now lives in the Bidi Bidi Refugee Camp, along with 270,000 other South Sudanese, where food is rationed and clean water is a precious commodity. The heat and crowded conditions intensify the anger felt toward rival ethnic groups.

Even in these dire conditions, John refuses to become discouraged. He and others train youth peer counselors in peacebuilding. His faith rests in the deep hope of the Gospel.

Your gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering will help continue this persistent pursuit of peace.



The Need for Peace in South Sudan

-  Nearly 3.4 million people fled their homes in search of safety,¹ including 1.8 million children.²
-  War has led to famine as homes and crops have been destroyed. An estimated 5 million people face severe food shortages.¹

Gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering will proclaim the peace of Christ with brothers and sisters amid conflicts like this through **peacebuilding ministries of accompaniment, advocacy, and education.**

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY