



Blacksburg Presbyterian Church
1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 2017

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

“Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don’t give up.” ~ Anne Lamott

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

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.)*

Catherine Taylor

PRELUDE

† ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Please stand as you are able and welcome the light that is coming in Christ.

(The candle is lit.)

Now, in this holy season of Advent, we wait.

For the faithful God is coming to us.

Now, in this season of waiting, we listen.

For the faithful Word speaks good news to us.

Now, in the waiting and listening, we watch.

For the faithful Spirit is moving among us.

ADVENT PRAYER

God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! But you will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead you are born among us as an infant. Instead you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So we will stay alert, or at least try, because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

† HYMN No. 105 vv. 1-4

People, Look East

BESANÇON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out— against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. ... *(A time of silent confession follows.)* In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end
so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord!

† GRATEFUL RESPONSE

BESANÇON

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

† 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

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 80:1-7, 18

Karen Watson

ANTHEM

I Look From Afar

GIOVANNI PALESTRINA
arr. RICHARD SHEPHARD

Adult Choir

Maggie Good and Danny Fritsch, solos

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say: Art thou he that should come to rule thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another: go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep: art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength and come to rule thy people Israel.

All glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. Alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

SERMON

“Down in the Valley”

Dr. Taylor

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN No. 800

Sometimes a Light Surprises

SALLEY GARDENS

OFFERTORY

My Lord, What a Morning

traditional Spiritual

Jordyn Birden, solo

My Lord, what a morning!

You’ll hear the trumpet sound,

My Lord, what a morning!

To wake the nations underground,

O my Lord, what a morning!

Looking to my God’s right hand,

When the stars begin to fall.

When the stars begin to fall.

You’ll hear the sinner moan,

To wake the nations underground,

Looking to my God’s right hand,

When the stars begin to fall.

† DOXOLOGY

BESAŇON

Text by Catherine Taylor

People of hope sing out your praise,

To our God your voices raise.

Sing of the Lord of all creation,

Sing of the Son with a shout of elation,

Sing of the Spirit, bold and free,

Three in One eternally.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All are welcome at Christ's table. Use the center aisle to reach a station, take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. Return to your seat by the side aisle. Gluten, dairy and egg-free bread and individual cups are available at the center station in front. If you need to remain seated, the elements will be brought to you.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts,

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

THE FIRST NOWELL

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born is the King of Israel.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN No. 39

Great is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

*please recycle your bulletin in the wooden bins on either side of the front doors.

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church
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ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES December 3, 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.**

HEADSETS for the HEARING IMPAIRED are available. Speak to an Usher or Gavin Faulkner to use them for the worship service.

We are grateful for Karen Watson who is our liturgist today.

Creation Care thought: Our predicament now, I believe, requires us to learn to read and understand the Bible in the light of the present fact of Creation. --Wendell Berry (1934-), *Sex, Economy, Freedom and Community*

BAKERS are needed to **bring** the gingerbread to the BPC kitchen by today, Sunday, **Dec. 3rd**. Please put the unassembled parts in zip lock bags in the freezer. **Builders:** Houses will be assembled at 10:00 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 4 & 5 in Hatcher Conference Room. Call Susan Hunter for more information at 552-2504.



2017 ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for that perfect Christmas gift for someone special?

How about making a contribution to your favorite charitable organization in honor of that special person? As in previous years, PW will be offering Alternative Gift Giving opportunities on two Sundays—first on **December 3** at the Advent Workshop and again on **December 10** before and after church.

Make a donation or donations and choose a card for each organization you are supporting. Send that card to your honoree announcing the gift. In addition to Bread for the World, ECPAT (End Child Prostitution And Trafficking), and the local organizations, Micah's Backpack, To Our House, and VICCC (Valley Interfaith Child Care Center), this year cards for donations to the UKirk Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech (Cooper House) will also be available. Since global mission is the emphasis of the Advent Workshop, both Malawi and Guatemala (CEDEPCA) alternative gift giving opportunities will be offered through separate exhibits rather than through PW sponsored cards.

SERVING TODAY

Church Opener: Dale Wolf

Elder of the Week: **Today:** Andrew Warren **Mon-Sunday:** Susan Bailey

Ushers: Marcia Wright, Zach and Heidi Swartzwelder, and Anne Campbell

Counters: Bob Hendricks and Paula Stith

Attention men of the church: Whether you're a pinball wizard or someone who makes machines go TILT, join the men of the church on Saturday, Jan. 13 for an evening of pinball and fellowship in downtown Roanoke. We'll carpool from the church, leaving at 3 to go to the Roanoke Pinball Museum, where it's all-you-can-play. Around 6, we'll go out for dinner at a nearby restaurant before returning to Blacksburg. It's \$12 admission to the museum, plus the cost of dinner. All adult men are welcome, regardless of skill level. Please RSVP to Rich Polikoff, rpolikoff@albion.edu, by Jan. 7, so we can get an accurate headcount.

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

- Dec. 3 Advent workshop at 9:00 a.m. for all ages! - FH
Alternative Gift Fair 9:00 a.m. and following worship - FH
Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group tonight at BPC 5:30-7:30 p.m. for Dinner & Discussion
- Dec. 4 Gingerbread Assembly at 10:00 a.m. – HCR
Staff meets at 1:30 p.m. – HCR
Lydia Circle meets at BPC at 1:30 p.m.
Hildegard Circle will meet at Patti Giles' home, 1302 Grissom Lane at 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 5 Tuesday Morningstars Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. - HCR
Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. –FH
Gingerbread Assembly at 10:00 a.m. - HCR
Prayer Group meets at 11:00 a.m. – Prayer Room- All are welcome!
- Dec. 6 Malawi meets at 4:30 a.m. – HCR
13th Annual Gingerbread Potluck at 5:30 p.m.
Bring a dish to share and candy to decorate your gingerbread house
Adult Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.
- Dec. 7 Caring for the Community at 9:30 a.m. - HCR
- Dec. 10 Second Sunday of Advent
Alternative Gift Fair 9:00 a.m. – FH
Mini Art Tour 9:00 a.m. with Martha Dillard
Chili Dinner & Caroling 5:00 p.m. at BPC, Eat together then off to carol!
Youth Group meets from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party at the Zobel's

UPCOMING EVENTS AT BPC

- Dec. 12 UKirk Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m. to celebrate the ministry of Ginny Taylor-Troutman
- Dec. 13 Caring for the Community 9:30 a.m. - HCR
- Dec. 17 Men of the Church Breakfast and Chimes 9:00 a.m. at BPC
- Dec. 18 Faith Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. at Jama Green's home-2532 Blossom Trail West
- Dec. 24 **4th Sunday of Advent– 10:30 a.m.**
Christmas Eve Worship:
Family Service at 4:30 p.m. and
Candlelight Service at 8:00 p.m. with Communion
- Dec. 25 Merry Christmas! No worship service today
Christmas Day Lunch at Preston's
- Church Office Closed – Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26
- Dec. 29 Church Office Closes early
- Dec. 30 Memorial Service for Donna Stalcup at 3:00 p.m. with reception to follow

January 1, 2018

Happy New Year! – Church Office Closed



FAITH CIRCLE SERVICE PROJECT

Faith Circle is collecting monetary donations or amazon gift cards to purchase 34 medical kits for Head Start kids. These kits will include a thermometer, Band-Aids, hand sanitizer, hand soap, travel tissues, and nail clippers. The goal is to raise \$350 for these kits. Faith Circle hopes these kits can help Head Start stay healthy this flu season! Write a check payable to BPC with "Head Start Kits" in the subject line and the kits will be purchased for you! Checks can be placed in the collection plat or dropped off in the office. Donations are accepted online too by choosing "Head Start Health Kits" in the pull down menu when giving. Accepting until December 17.

Advent Workshop and Alternative Gift Fair

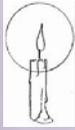
December 3rd at 9am
BPC Fellowship Hall

Alternative Gift Fair
will also be held on
Dec. 10th

The workshop will include activities for young and old, including an Advent wreath making station (suggested donation \$10).

The Alternative Gift Fair will include items from Guatemala and Malawi, cards from Presbyterian Women to support multiple local organizations, and hand-crafted items from the Quilters and Knit Wits with proceeds going to the Women's Resource Center.





ADVENT EVENTS HAPPENING AT BPC

BPC's ADVENT SCHEDULE

All Church Advent Workshop and Fair – December 3, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.-FH

There will be activities provided by the Children's Ministry and an Advent Wreath making station. A number of ministries will be providing alternative gifts. Scarves from the women weavers in Guatemala, Malawi, cards to support a number of local non-profits in town, and the Quilters and KnitWits will have items they have created available with funds going to support the Women's Resource Center.

13th Annual Gingerbread House and Potluck – December 6, 2017 - 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Gingerbread needed by Dec. 3rd. Can be placed in the freezer in the kitchen. Bring a dish to share and candy/cereal/pretzels to decorate.

The Alternative Gift Giving Fair - December 10th – Fellowship Hall

A number of ministries will be providing alternative gifts. Scarves from the women weavers in Guatemala, Malawi, cards to support a number of local non-profits in town, and the Quilters and KnitWits will have items they have created available with funds going to support the Women's Resource Center.

Caroling – December 10, 2017 - 5:00 p.m.

Meet at the church, eat chili together, and split up into groups to go caroling.

MOC Chimes Breakfast – December 17, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hall

Men of the Church will prepare breakfast. Come join us to eat together and sing carols. Donations will gladly be accepted!

Christmas Eve Services

Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Christmas Joy Offering



Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight with Communion Service at 8:00 p.m.

No service Christmas Day – Church Office will be closed Dec. 25 & Dec. 26

Christmas Day Luncheon at Preston's – December 25, 2017

Reserve your place today by calling the church office at 552-2504.

2018 CELEBRATION FLOWER RESERVATION

Celebration flowers glorify God, and add beauty and a sense of hospitality to our worship services. Flowers are often given in memory or honor of a loved one or to celebrate a special event in our lives. To give everyone a chance to participate, all Sundays, except those during Lent and Advent, are available to be reserved on a first requested basis. If you would like to sponsor the celebration flowers for any of the following dates in 2018, please complete this form and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	4	X	1	1	3	1	5	2		4	X
7	11	X	8	8	10	8	12	9	7	11	X
14	X	X	15		17	15	19	16	14	18	X
21	X	X	22		24	22	26	23	21	25	X
28			29			29		30	28		30

Please indicate your choice: Best Wishes BPC's Flower Committee Peace Lilies

Choice of dates: First : _____ Second: _____ Third: _____
 (Please indicate optional choices in case your first choice is no longer available.)

Sponsor's name: _____ Phone: _____

Address to be billed by florist: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Flower/color preferences: _____

(If no preference is specified, the florist will select flowers/colors from the best available.)

TO BE PRINTED IN BULLETIN: "Flowers given by _____

_____ in loving memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

_____ other _____

After church (please check one:

_____ Sponsor will take arrangement(s) home

_____ Deliver to shut-in(s) (names) _____

_____ Other _____

Best Wishes will bill you directly for your arrangements, which will cost \$50. (Special floral requests may incur an additional charge.) Or elect to have BPC's Flower Committee create arrangements for you for the same price.

As an alternative, you may sponsor the use of BPC's peace lilies in worship and donate the cost of an arrangement to a church program or charity of your choice.