

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

March 30, 2025

## THE GATHERING

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalm 32

Leader: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, and whose spirit there is no deceit.  
People: **Therefore all who are faithful offer prayer to the God of deliverance.**  
Leader: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go, as your trust in the Lord.  
People: **Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous; shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**  
All: **Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 39 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we are both the younger and the elder child. We run from you, chasing illusions of freedom, squandering grace until we find ourselves empty and alone. And we stand apart in judgment, arms crossed with resentment, refusing to celebrate mercy when it offends our sense of fairness. We forget that your love is not earned but given—extravagant, unmeasured, and always coming toward us. Forgive us, gather us in, and make us one family again at your table of joy. Amen.

### *Silent Prayer*

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.  
People: **And also with you.**

### \*Response Chorus

*Oh, how He loves you and me,  
Oh, how He loves you and me.  
He gave His life, what more could He give?  
Oh, how He loves you; Oh how He loves me;  
Oh, how He loves you and me.*

## THE WORD

### TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 5: 16-2

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *The Prodigal* Rev. Beth Newman

## OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM *Peace for the Journey*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

\*THE DOXOLOGY 607  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. A-men.*

### \*PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

\*HYMN 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

## THE SENDING

### \*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION  
*May the love of God go with you from this place.  
May your hours and days show forth his praise.*

*\*Rise in body or spirit.*

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Cover Art: *Return of the Prodigal Son* fresco at Montreat Chapel by Benjamin F. Long  
The Affirmation of Faith is from A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)

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Leading in worship today:  
**Pastor:** Rev. Beth Newman  
**Music Director:** Kathy Wiggins  
**Guest Musician:** Katherine Whitehouse  
**Elder of the Month:** Patty Ambrosino

The Choir will be singing selections from the Cantata *Journey to Hope* during the Lenten Season.

# Announcements

**WELCOME VISITORS!** If you are worshipping here for the first time today, Welcome! We are glad to have you join in our worship service.

**SUNDAY SERVICE:** Sunday service is at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. It is also on Facebook Live Stream.

**SUNDAY MORNING CLASS:** Pastor Beth is leading a class on Sunday mornings in the Hut from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. This class is discussion-based and open to any adult or teen who would like to come. During the session of Lent we are studying spiritual disciplines.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:** Booklets are available in the narthex.

**EASTER LILIES:** If you would like to donate a lily in honor or memory of someone there are order forms in the narthex. We will use them to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday and they can be taken home afterwards.

**FLOWER CHART:** There is a Flower Chart in the narthex, on the left as you enter the main door. If you would like to bring flowers for our Sanctuary please write your name and telephone number under the month and date. If you would like to donate them in honor or memory of someone please drop a note in the offering plate.

**“FINISHING STRONG”:** Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt will hold a class here April 5th from 10am until 2pm on how to prepare for life’s final stages. A signup sheet is in the narthex.

**BLAST FROM THE PAST:** Copies of the cookbook recipe you selected are available in the narthex. Your name is on the recipe copy. The dinner is April 9th.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

**Communion** - Every first Sunday of the month.

**Choir Practice** - Every Sunday at 9:30 am. Anyone is welcome, Please join us!

**Back Porch Bible Study** - Sundays from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the home of Martha Rich. For more information call Martha at 770-851-6852.

**Bible Study:** Every Wednesday at 11:00 am in the Parlor.

**Session Meeting** - Every third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

**Women’s Breakfast** - Every Thursday at 8:00 a.m. at Mountain Perks except for the second Thursday of each month when the location will be decided on.

**Men’s Breakfast** - Every Thursday at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Daily Change Offering** - Every second Sunday of each month.

**Presbyterian Women** - The second Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. You can come early, bring your lunch, and have fellowship.

**Coffee & Fellowship** - Every first Sunday after worship service.

**Food Pantry** - Every Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and every Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

**Welcome Wednesdays** - Manna distributes every other Wednesday at the Church Food Pantry for anyone who wishes to pick up food.

**AA Meetings** - Monday at noon, Tuesday 5:30 p.m., Thursday at noon, Friday at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

**Al-Anon Meeting-** Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.



## Maundy Thursday Service

April 17th at 6:00 p.m.

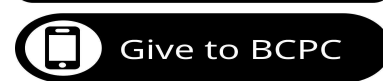
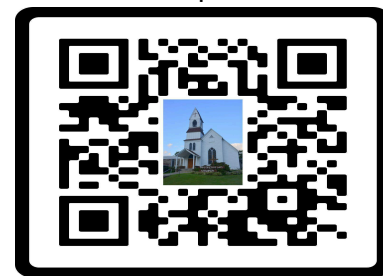
## Community Potluck & Worship

12:00 noon Monday the 14th and Friday the 18th at noon at the Bryson City Presbyterian Church - paper goods and drinks provided

## Easter Sunday at BCPC

Sunday the 20th breakfast at 9:00 followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Worship at 11:00 a.m.



This is a QR Code and can be scanned by your phone’s camera. If your phone does not have this capacity, you can download an app. This code is linked to the church’s Paypal account.

**BCPC Elders:** Patty Ambrosino (Church Grounds), Sammi Birchfield (Discipleship & Community Outreach), Randy Bumgarner (Building & Grounds), Bill Helwig (Worship Committee), Bob Jordan (Building & Grounds), Dan Manley (Clerk), Lisa Monnat (Personnel), Martha Rich (Congregational Life), Carol Sussman (Finance)

## BCPC Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Beth Newman

Music Director: Kathy Wiggins

Office Administrator: Elise Bryson

Custodians: Michael & Daniel Cochran

Email-[BCPC@bcpcusa.org](mailto:BCPC@bcpcusa.org); Website-[www.bcpcusa.org](http://www.bcpcusa.org)

[Facebook-www.facebook.com/BrysonCityPresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/BrysonCityPresbyterianChurch)

[Paypal.me/lovebcpc](https://www.paypal.me/lovebcpc)

## Bryson City Presbyterian Church March 30, 2025



311 Everett Street, PO Box 549, Bryson City, NC 28713  
828-488-2480

## Mission Statement of Bryson City Presbyterian Church

*We seek to follow Jesus Christ as we . . .*

*Engage and encourage one another in worship and fellowship*

*Learn together as we grow in discipleship and*

*Reach out in love.*