

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 26, 2023  
First Sunday in Lent

## THE GATHERING

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Fairest Lord Jesus* arr. Edwards

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.  
**People: God created in the wilderness.**  
Leader: The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.  
**People: The Israelites found God in the wilderness.**  
Leader: Jesus said “no” to the tempter time and time again.  
**People: Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.**  
Leader: We grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.  
**People: For God is with us--before, through, and after the wilderness.**  
**All: Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Creation, the psalms remind us that even before a word is on our tongue, you know it completely. You know the prayers we bring before you today—confessions of greed and doubt, fear and anxiety, conflict and regret. Free us from these sins. Give us the strength to say “no” to that which separates us from you, and “yes” to the things that let love grow. Guide us out of our wilderness spaces and into your light. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

*Time for silent confession*

### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

## THE WORD

### TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Romans 5: 12-19

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 4: 1-11

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

SERMON *The Wilderness* Rev. Beth Newman

## OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM *Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said* arr. Helvey

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH From Colossians 1:15-20

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. 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 *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* arr. Moglebust

## \*THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### \*PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

\*HYMN 168 *Within Your Shelter, Loving God* arr. ABBEY

## 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.*

POSTLUDE *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* arr. Page

*\*Rise in body or spirit.*

The Call to Worship and The Prayer of Confession by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art

Cover Art: *Spirit Led* by: Lauren Wright Pittman

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Leading in worship today:

**Pastor:** Rev. Beth Newman

**Minister of Music:** Rachel Lackey

**Elder of the Month:** Sammi Birchfield

**Hand Chime Choir**

## 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 SCHOOL FOR YOUTH AND TEENS:** Middle and High School Sunday School are invited to a conversation about scripture beginning in the youth room at 10:00.

**NURSERY:** Young children are invited to go to the nursery after the children's sermon. Activity bags are available in the narthex.

**WILDERNESS THEME:** Our theme for this season of Lent is *wilderness*. Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle, where he is shaped and formed for his ministry. We rarely enter into the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. The vases of sand, stone, twigs and moss adorning our sanctuary were made by some of our members to symbolize elements of the wilderness for us as we worship God.

**SESSION MEETING:** There will be a Session Meeting after worship today. A light lunch will be served.

**BOOK STUDY:** During the month of March, starting March 12th, we will begin a three week book study on Kate Bowler's *Everything Happens for a Reason and other Lies I've Loved*. Kate is the keynote speaker for the Montreat Women's Conference in August. Everyone is invited to join us, and if you'd like for the church to order you a book, leave your name on the sign up sheet in the narthex. We'll meet after worship at 2:00 in the fellowship hall.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Church Retreat at William Black Lodge will be August 25th through the 27th. More details will be forthcoming.

### CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

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

**Choir Practice** - Every Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

**Bible Study** - Every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.

**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.

**Session Meeting** - The fourth Sunday of every month after worship service.

**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.

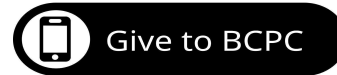
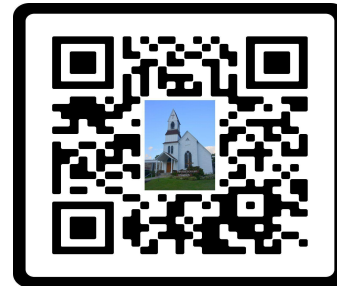
**Crafting with Jackie** - Every first and third Wednesday of the month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Manna Express** - Fourth Friday of every month in the First Baptist Church parking lot from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon.

**++Food Pantry** - Every Tuesday 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and every Friday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

**Giving Spoon** - Every Monday 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and every Thursday 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

YTD Financials	
Unrestricted Giving	\$28,865
Operating Expenses	\$25,562
Operating Excess/Deficit	\$ 3,303

**BCPC Elders:** Mark Brannon, Drew Campbell, Kyle Colley, Cathy Evans, Martha Rich, Carol Sussman, Dan Manley, Bob Jordan, Sammi Birchfield

**BCPC Staff:** Pastor: Rev. Beth Newman

Minister of Music: Rev. Rachel Lackey

Office Administrator: Elise Bryson

Nursery: Josie Parker

Custodian: Renee Mercer

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# Bryson City Presbyterian Church

February 26, 2023



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.*