

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Praise Him! Praise Him!* arr. Hayes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All are welcome here--
People: The young and the old, those who have visions and those who dream dreams.

Leader: All are welcome here--
People: The hurt and the doubting, those who know the wilderness and those who feel lost.

Leader: All are welcome here; for you are loved by God, and this is God's house.

All: Let us worship God.

*HYMN 634 *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we give you our hearts. They are brimming with doubt and are saturated with fear, but we give them to you anyway, for you promise to love us as we are. You promise to walk with us to the ends of the earth, so in this moment, we promise to tell the truth. God, you ask us to be brave and bold, but we cower in fear. You ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we hold tight to privilege and the status quo. And you ask us to risk it all to follow you, but we are content with the injustices at hand. Forgive us for our sin and lift our eyes to you. Lift our eyes to the hills. 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 Psalm 121

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 3: 1-17

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

SERMON *How Can These Things Be?* Rev. Beth Newman

OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM *God So Loved the World* Stainer

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognises our deepest needs. We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted. We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child. We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts. We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine. We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *How Deep is God's Love for Us* arr. Shackley

*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 817 *We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight* DUNLAP'S CREEK

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 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* arr. Lowe

**Rise in body or spirit.*

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

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba*
Cover Art: *Wilderness Song* by: Lauren Wright Pittman

Leading in worship today:
Pastor: Rev. Beth Newman
Minister of Music: Rev. Rachel Lackey
Elder of the Month: Martha Rich

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: There will not be a nursery this week. Activity bags are available in the narthex.

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. 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 - There will not be a Session Meeting in November. The next one will be Sunday, December 11th 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.

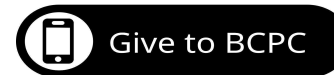
Crafting with Jackie - Every first and third Wednesday of the month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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	\$30,855
Operating Expenses	\$25,679
Operating Excess/Deficit	\$ 5,176

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

Email-BCPC@bcpcusa.org; **Website-**www.bcpcusa.org
Facebook-www.facebook.com/BrysonCityPresbyterianChurch
Paypal-[paypal.me/lovebcpc](https://www.paypal.me/lovebcpc)

Bryson City Presbyterian Church

March 5, 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.