



Sunday Worship January 21, 2024 — 11:00 a.m.

**Embodying the Love of Christ, we are joyfully
called to be a church in the heart of Black Mountain
where the welcome never ends.**

Please silence all communication devices. † indicates to stand, if you are able.
The congregation is invited to join in where the liturgy is marked in bold.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

Mary Katherine Robinson

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INTROIT

O Beauty Ever Ancient

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise and shine; for your light has come!

The glory of God has risen upon us.

Nations will see his light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

God will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

Jesus, the Christ, is the light of the world

The mystery of the ages is being revealed.

God's guiding ways are in front of us, seekers and sages, sinners and saints.

For God's way is revealed in unexpected ways before us,

Tumbling the mighty, lifting the least.

God fills the hungry with good things, and sends the rich empty away.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

To give light to those who sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death,

To guide our feet in the way of peace.

†HYMN NO. 650

O Beauty Ever Ancient

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
In thought, word and deed,
By what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We ask that you will forgive us,
help us amend what we are and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will,
live in your light and abide in your ways,
To the glory of your name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe this good news.
In Jesus Christ we are transformed by grace.

† RESPONSE

All You Works of God

M. Haugen

Refrain:

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music with lyrics underneath. The first line is the refrain: 'All you works of God ev - 'ry moun - tain star and tree'. The second line continues: 'Bless the one who shapes your beau - ty, who has caused you all to be'. The third line continues: 'One great song of love and grace, ev - er an - cient ev - er new'. The fourth line concludes: 'Raise your voi - ces, all you works of God!'. There is a fermata over the final note of the fourth line.

All you works of God ev - 'ry moun - tain star and tree
Bless the one who shapes your beau - ty, who has caused you all to be
One great song of love and grace, ev - er an - cient ev - er new
Raise your voi - ces, all you works of God!

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

FAITH SHARING

David Carter Florence

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord; open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:6-9

SERMON

The Tree of Life

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN

Trees

DIX, Michael Morgan

from Psalms for All Seasons

Tree of ___ Wis - dom, fruit - ful, green, flour - i - shing be - side the stream;
Tree of ___ Just - ice ev - er bless, shade me with your right-eous-ness.
Tree of ___ Plen - ty, feed my soul; nur - ture me, and make me whole.
Tree of ___ Pro - mise, keep your vow: with me then and with me now.
Like a ___ for - est all a - round, so the gifts of grace a - bound:

5
spread your ___ knowl - edge day and night; make your law my true de - light.
Teach me ___ how to live your ways, and my lips shall sing your praise.
Give me ___ strength, cast fear a - side; let me in your love a - bide.
Spring time ___ blos - soms, win - ter tears, mark the sea - sons of my years.
flow - ing ___ wat - ers, fer - tile sod, sun - lit dawn, the Word of God.

9 *Refrain*

Fash - ion me, O Lord, to be strong and splen - did like a tree.
 Fash - ion me, O Lord, to be ev - er branch - ing like a tree.
 Fash - ion me, O Lord, to be firm - ly plant - ed as a tree.
 Fash - ion me, O Lord, to be al - ways chan - ging as a tree.
 Fash - ion me, O Lord, to be liv - ing, giv - ing as a tree.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Declaration of Faith, PCUS
 from chapter two - *The Maker and Ruler of All*

God created and rules in love.
 God created all the worlds that are and upholds and rules everything.
 We affirm that the universe exists by the power of God’s Word and Spirit.
 God has chosen to give it reality out of the love we have come to know in Christ.
 God still works through the processes that shape and change the earth
 and the living things upon it.
 We acknowledge God’s care and control in the regularity of the universe
 as well as in apparently random happenings.
 There is no event from which God is absent and God’s ultimate purpose
 in all events is just and loving.
 That purpose embraces our choices and will surely be accomplished.
 The Creator works in all things toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Musical Meditation *Offertory Impromptu*

†Doxology

O God Beyond All Praising stanza 1

THAXTED, G. Holst

O God beyond all praising, we worship you to-day
and sing the love amazing that songs can-not repay;
for we can on-ly wonder at every gift you send,
at-blessings with-out number and mercies with-out end:
we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your Word,
we ho-nor and a-dore you, our great and migh-ty Lord!

†Prayer of Dedication

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN NO. 315

In the Midst of New Dimensions

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†CHORAL BENEDICTION PARTING BLESSING

J. Jerome Williams

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Delia Lytle-Bailey for sharing her musical gifts today.

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JOYS AND CONCERNS

Emily Beaver finished at Columbia in December. Graduation is in May. She is in the process of discernment in a call and is the director of family ministry at Trinity Presbyterian in Atlanta.

Susan Banzhoff following the death of her mother, Mary Lou Boon, on January 9

Betty Hill recovering at Highland Farms Healthcare

Pam McMurray following the death of her mother, Ernestine Owen Conrad

We celebrate the marriage of **Ann White and Caroline Lovette**

George Thompson recovering from a broken fibula

Congratulations to **Cheryl Wilson** who received the 2024 John K. Abernathy Community Service Award, presented to her by Darrell Johnson, Black Mountain Rotary Club president

We list names for three weeks unless requested otherwise. To add someone to the list (with their permission), please call 669-2725, or email jackie@bmpcnc.org

Mission Partners: **John McCall** in Taiwan; **Dan & Elizabeth Turk** in Madagascar;

Outreach Foundation: **Frank Dimmock**; *This Child Here/Ukraine*: **Robert Gamble**;

Levi Bannerman, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia;

Susie Burns, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina;

Our partner Presbytery and partner church, **Ebenezer**, in Guatemala

Please remember in prayer these people with ongoing concerns:

Tom Cannon, Chad Carlton, Jane Collins, Curtis Davies, Art De Jong, Jim Elam, Ellen Gibson,

Kevin Griffin, Becky Hughes, Mary McElrath, NeGrete Family, Elissa Pusser, Margaret Rada,

Betty Rand, Penny Sampson, Callie Shaffer, Sandra Wilson, Kay Petty Young

Connect with us on our website: bmpcnc.org

Visitors: let us know of your interest or questions about BMPC.

Members: share prayer requests, pastoral concerns, or updated contact information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

WORK AND WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Bus Driver Billy Banks

Ushers Dave Johnson, Margaret Fouse, Gay Ferguson

Sunday, January 21

- 8:45 a.m. FirstLight
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Family Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 2:30 p.m. Handbells

Monday, January 22

- 1:30 p.m. Earth Care Book Group

Tuesday, January 23

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Women's AA Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Prophets

Wednesday, January 24

- 11:30 a.m. Old Fellers Lunch
- 3:30 p.m. RAD! Wednesdays
- 5:30 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Lewis and Tolkien
- 6:30 p.m. Youth
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 27

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga
- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Meet & Eat – Small Groups

It's time to sign up for the Winter/Spring edition of Meet & Eat small groups. These groups will meet during the months of February, March, April, and May. Each Meet & Eat group will consist of around eight adult members. You can sign up on the form located outside fellowship hall or call the church office at (828) 669-2725.

This is a great opportunity to form real relationships with other members of our congregation.

The deadline for signing up is TODAY!

Ushers and Greeters needed every Sunday morning

If you are interested in ushering and/or greeting on Sunday mornings either in the FirstLight service or at 11:00, please email Jackie (jackie@bmpcnc.org).

You can sign up for one Sunday or choose to help once a month on a regular basis. It's always helpful when folks have signed up in advance so there is no scrambling around for help on Sunday mornings.

Thank you very much!



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

117 Montreat Road | Black Mountain, NC 28711 | 828-669-2725 | www.bmpcnc.org



BMPC Child Protection Policy
providing a safe environment for children & youth

