

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.



#### **† 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

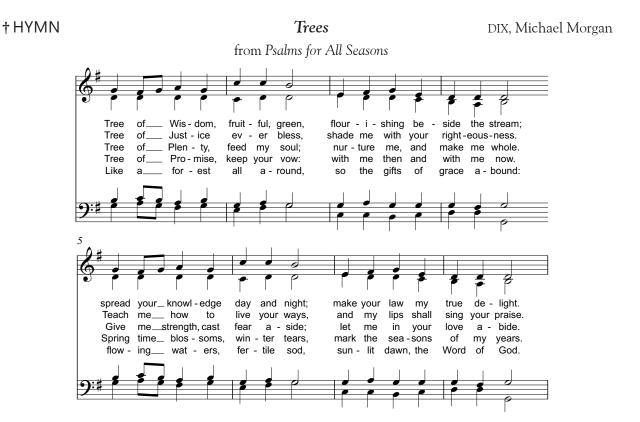
SCRIPTURE READING

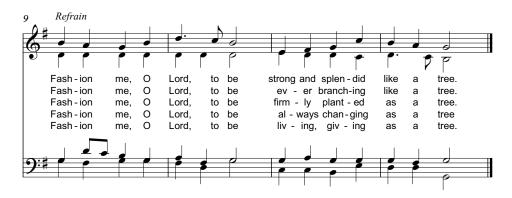
Luke 13:6-9

**SERMON** 

The Tree of Life

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD





#### 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



†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!



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









