



Sunday Worship March 17, 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

MINUTE FOR MISSION 40th Anniversary of BMPC Weekday School

Linda Stroupe

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Come Thou Fount, Come to Me

arr. Aaron Price

†CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather here, where God teaches us
to be more compassionate, to be more loving.

We gather here, where Jesus teaches us
the wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a grudge,
the language of hope so we may speak to all.

We gather here, where the Spirit imparts wisdom
so we might know how to share grace,
so we would learn to welcome in this place.

†HYMN 624.1,3,4,5

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,
We long to be lifelong learners.
We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.
Instead, we often live as if we know best.
We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.”
Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.
Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.
Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done
and that we have all the answers.
Like Peter – who was brave enough to ask,
“How many times should we forgive?” – make us brave.
Spark a desire in us to learn,
and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.
With hope and humility we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

† RESPONSE 447

We Are Forgiven

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

FAITH SHARING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:15-22

SERMON

Teach Me

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

†HYMN 771

What Is the World Like?

†ANNIVERSARY LITANY FOR THE BMPC WEEKDAY SCHOOL

We give you thanks, Gracious and Loving God, for the fruits we celebrate today! You have given us the gift of creation, the wisdom of your creative genius and power. You call us to be caretakers of your world through education, community building, and acts of justice for all.

Today we celebrate Black Mountain Presbyterian Church's forty year commitment to faith formation in the Weekday School.

We give thanks for the commitment to learning in a way that embodies the teachings of Christ, where each child is valued and loved for who they are.

We celebrate the greatness of God, the one who creates us as beings who learn and grow in our role as brothers and sisters in community, bearers of God's image and builders of a new creation. We remember the children who have been a part of this school for the last forty years! We celebrate this school, this thoughtful, safe and loving place where children are held, guided and given a foundation for their lifelong learning. The call to care and educate children is a high calling. With each day of school, teachers help shape the life of each child for a lifetime. Every generation is formed by its teachers and schools.

We give thanks to God for the Weekday School teachers, school administrators, counselors, school volunteers, and support staff for embracing children for the last forty years. We celebrate your calling and pledge to continue to support you in this vital mission of our church and community.

You, the congregation, as the parents, guardians, grandparents and mentors, are in a partnership between this church school, home and community. Your commitment, grounded in Baptism, is essential to each child's growth, faith formation, and success. This morning we recognize you for the forty years of support you have given to our children, teachers, and staff of the Weekday School.

We celebrate our role in loving each child, supporting each teacher, and holding this school in the light of God.

We give thanks for the commitment to learning in a way that witnesses to the love and teachings of Christ. We celebrate the greatness of God, the one who creates us to live in community, and grow in our role as brothers and sisters to our neighbors.

May we be bearers of God's image and builders of a new creation, grounded in the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER *Amen I*

CALL TO OFFERING

Musical Meditation

Forty Days In the Desert

William Peters

Handbell Ringers

†Doxology 717

For the Life That You Have Given

PLEADING SAVIOR

†Prayer of Dedication

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN 298.1,3,5

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

March

Michael Helman

from *Suite for Handbells*

cover art: *Seventy-seven Times* by Lauren Wright Pittman, inspired by Matthew 18:15-22

digital painting | *A Sanctified Art* | sanctifiedart.org

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JOYS AND CONCERNS

Family and friends of Jim Elam following his death on March 2
A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m.

Alan Hetzel in hospice home care at the Quaker retirement community
where he and Ellen Farrior live in Maryland

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, 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

FL Greeter James Robinson-Long Bus Blake Martin

11:00 Greeter Perry Sprawls 11:00 Ushers Cherie Lunsford, Gay Ferguson

Sunday, March 17

- 8:45 a.m. FirstLight
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Family Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, March 18

- 1:00 p.m. Earth Care Book Group

Tuesday, March 19

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

Wednesday, March 20

- 10:00 a.m. Finance Team
- 11:30 a.m. Old Fellers Lunch
- 3:30 p.m. RAD! Wednesdays
- 5:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 21

- 3:00 p.m. Book Club with Ina Hughs

Friday, March 22

- 10:00 a.m. Property Workday

Saturday, March 23

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga
- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
- 1:30 p.m. Jim Elam Memorial Service

Two extra tickets are available for **Jesus Christ Superstar** tomorrow, Monday, March 18, in Johnson City. See or email Aaron@bmpcnc.org. Bus leaves the church at 4:45 p.m.

Bread For The World

Lenten Prayers for an end to hunger

Lent Week 5 – March 17-23

Jesus teach us to rely on your Word

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:5-10

Psalms 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 John 12:20-33

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. —Jeremiah 31:33

With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. —Psalm 119:10-11

PRAYER

O God, we know your word is written on our hearts. Teach us to open our hearts to trust your word as we partner with you in seeking a world without hunger and injustice. Amen.

REFLECTION

Disparities and inequities are built into the social fabric of every country. Women and girls are more disadvantaged than their male counterparts. In the United States, African American and Latino communities experience higher unemployment rates as well as higher levels of hunger and poverty. We all participate in these systems. This Lenten season, may we open our hearts to the ways Jesus teaches us so that we might learn to trust in God's word and to act in ways that resist and dismantle these systems.

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an Earth Care Congregation



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



MATTHEW 25