



The Beckley Presbyterian Church
203 South Kanawha Street
Beckley, West Virginia 25801



April 8, 2018
Holy Humor Sunday

“The mission of Beckley Presbyterian Church is to glorify God through the nurturing and equipping of our congregation to manifest our faith throughout God’s creation with love, joy, hope, and open hearts.”

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*If you are able, please stand for items marked **
Portions in bold type are for congregational participation.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO VISITORS

INTERIM INFORMATION

WE GATHER AND CONFESS

PRELUDE *We Walk By Faith* *Dunlap's Greek* David Cherwein

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive; inspired by Col1: 19-22*) Karen Reed

In the face of a culture of death a world of killing fields a world of the walking dead,

Christ is at the head of the resurrection parade transforming our tears of betrayal into tears of joy giving us dancing shoes for the resurrection party

And this glittering joker who has danced in the dragon's jaws of death now dances with a dance that is full of nothing less than the fullness of God.

This is the dance of the new creation this is the dance of life out of death and in this dance

all that was broken

all that was estranged

all that was alienated

all that was dislocated and disconnected

is reconciled comes home is healed and is made whole.

Let us pray together:

You smiled and the sun burst through the shadows of chaos.

You chuckled, and the platypus splashed in creation's fountain.

You laughed, and all that is good and beautiful was given shape by you, Imaginative God.

Snickering at the feeble attempts of the evil one, you showed us how to resist temptation; giggling at sin's desperate desire to hold on to us, you released us by your love; howling with laughter at death's foolish belief that the tomb could hold you, you burst forth into the kingdom as the stars pealed with joy, Laughing Jesus.

As you fill us with new life, may we delight in sharing it with others; As you tell us the good news which can never be taken

from us, may we rejoice in offering it to the broken, the sad, the lonely; As you tickle us with grace, may we give it away with laughter on our lips and joy in our hearts, Spirit of Easter.

God in Community, Holy in One, our hearts overflow with wonder as we lift this prayer. Amen!

* HYMN 157

Lord of the Dance

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Together*)

You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus. who can bring us home to your heart.

Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways in which you work.

Fill us with Easter's laughter!

Fill us with your healing joy!

Fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen. (*silence is kept*)

* HYMN 551

Lord Have Mercy

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy; Christ Have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God, our sins are forgiven and God's joy remains. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

MOMENTS FOR MISSION

Self-Development of People

PASTORS PRAYER

Beckley

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE

...In Joy or in sadness; we choose to live as our Easter People

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along your pew. At this time you may also fill out the Encouragement Cards located in the back of the pews and place them in the collection plate.

OFFERING

Offertory

It Happened on That Fateful Night

Wilbur Held

* **HYMN 609** *Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures high and low; Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*Together*)

O God, how fortunate we are to come into your presence in this majestic place of worship. Let us give generously that others might also have the security of a sacred space. How graced we are to be surrounded by people who live by the example of Christ. May our gifts give others, less fortunate, wise leaders. How reassuring it is to have people in our lives to whom we can turn in times of trouble. Let our gratitude overflow in our gifts that others might know of the safety and acceptance of the love of God through Christ our Lord. Amen

GOD’S PEOPLE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

* **HYMN 238**

Thine is the Glory

* **CHARGE** (*Romans 15:12-14, The Message, Adapted JDB*)

May the God of hope fill us up with joy, fill us up with peace, so that our lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!

* **BENEDICTION**

* **CHORAL RESPONSE H 231** *Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*

POSTLUDE

Easter Hymn Lyra Davidica

Robert Hobby

We invite you to sit and listen to the Postlude before you leave worship.

GO IN PEACE!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS - We are so glad that you are here worshipping with us today. If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out the blue visitor card available in the pews and place it in the offering plate. If you are participating in Beckley Presbyterian Church and you would like to become a member, please speak with our Pastor Jim Burton. His information is available on the back of the bulletin.

THE FLOWERS in the sanctuary are placed this morning to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband Cam Lewis by Marie Lewis.

BOOK DISCUSSION Starting today in the Chapel during Sunday School, Pastor Burton will be leading a discussion based on Paul Nixon's book **I REFUSE TO LEAD A DYING CHURCH**. The book can be made available. It is cheaper on **KINDLE**. The class will last six or seven weeks. Question: How can a church choose **Life over Death**.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON all are welcome to join us today following worship for our Fellowship lunch in the Fellowship hall.

OUR PRAYERS go out to these churches today First Presbyterian Church, Oak Hill and Rome Presbyterian Church, Proctorville, Ohio Presbyterian Church; Gura Parish in the Nyeri Presbytery.

OUR THANKS to Karen Reed for Cookies in the Witherspoon, Karen Reed Lay Reader , Helen Walker Time for Young Disciples Leader , Nancy Hageman Nursery Assistant and to this week's greeter Drema Davis.

ELDERS ON CALL
April 8-14 Mary and Dan Calvert
April 15-21-Betsy Gilmer

SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 9:45 a.m. Children and youth classes are held in the Educational Building on the upper floor. *The Present Word Class* meets in Friendship Hall.

FELLOWSHIP and refreshments are available in the Witherspoon Room during the Sunday School hour.

NURSERY CARE is provided in the Educational Building from 9:30 a.m. to noon for newborn to age 5.

RESTROOMS are located on either side of the sanctuary on the landing going downstairs to the Friendship Hall. **Men's Restroom** on the **right landing** and **Ladies** on the **left landing**. **Handicapped Accessible Restrooms** are located in the back of the sanctuary and the parking lot entrance hallway leading to the Friendship Hall.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
10:55 a.m.- Worship
12:00 p.m.-Fellowship Luncheon
Fellowship Hall
7 p.m. Worship on 99.5 FM Radio

MONDAY, APRIL 9

Noon - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

9:00 a.m. Shepherd's Center
6:30 p.m.-Ministry of Worship Mtg
Witherspoon Room
8:00 p.m. - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

Noon - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg.
6:30 p.m.-Mission Study Meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Noon - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg.
6:00 p.m.-Handbells
7:15 p.m.-Choir

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

8:00 p.m. - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg.

SATURDAY, April 14

PW Luncheon

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

*Cents-Ability Offering and
Food for Helping Hands*
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
10:55 a.m. - Worship
7 p.m. Worship on 99.5 FM Radio

STAFF

The Reverend Jim Burton, Pastor, Ext. 6
Toni Mullins, Admin. Assist./Treasurer, Ext. 3
Tim Waugh, Artist-In-Residence, Ext. 4
Jeff Harris, Sexton
Roberta Brock, Nursery Supervisor
Sharon Volpe, Host

Jb406@live.com
tmullins@beckleypres.org
bpc.wv.music@gmail.com

OFFICE

Monday	Closed	Email	office@beckleypres.org
Tuesday-Thursday	9 a.m. - noon	Fax	(304) 252-5574
Friday	Closed		

		Treasurer's Hours	
Church Office	(304) 252-6289 ext 2	Monday-Friday	8 a.m.-4 p.m.
See above for Staff Extensions		Website	www.beckleypres.org

SESSION

Class of 2017-2018

Dan Calvert
Ross Hageman
Nancy Kissinger
Charles McNeel
Ann Worley

Class of 2018-2019

Nancy Cameron
Bill Hartling
Karen Reed
Clyde Smith
Mac Tieche

Class of 2019-2020

Al Combs
Betsy Gilmer
Drema Davis
Mary Calvert
David Sotak
Youth Representative
Rachel McNeel
(one year term)

The Reverend Jim Burton, Moderator
Dan Calvert, Acting Clerk of Session

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY BECKLEY PRESBYTERIAN

Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan in Bangladesh