

Buck Mountain Episcopal Church

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026**



**Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.
We welcome you if you are visiting with us today.
Visitors: please see the notes for visitors on the last page**

Buck Mountain is a Spirit-led, inclusive community of faith, living out God's unconditional love with each other, our community, and the world through worship, outreach, spiritual development, youth formation, and fellowship.

Our Sunday services are livestreamed. The camera shows the altar and the lectern/pulpit area. If you do not wish to be on camera during communion, tell the usher and we will bring communion to you off camera.

Buck Mountain Episcopal Church
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Earlysville, VA 22936
434-973-2054 www.buckmountainchurch.org

Prelude

Entrance – Silent Procession

The Word of God

standing,

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

A Reading from the First book of Samuel. *seated*

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 23 *seated*

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- ²He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- ³He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- ⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

Sequence Hymn

I want to walk as a child of the light

H 490

GOSPEL *All stand.*

John 9:1-41

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked

The Sermon

The Rev. Mary L. Staley

The Nicene Creed *All stand.*

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers Of The People

After each bidding the congregation responds

Hear our prayer

We pray for those in need of healing;

In unison John, Amos, Star, Anne, Amrie, Phil, Sandra, Jackie, Kim, Melody, Carol,
Brian, Levi, Joy, Sam, Marguerite, Katy, Ashlee, Tee, Robert, Kirsten, Kate, Fran,
Dave, Joe, Olivia, Emily, Matalie, Kathy, Charlie, Karen, Jill, Gary

Intercessor will pause. Please offer your additional prayers either silently or aloud.

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for those who serve in the Uniformed Services
including:

In unison: Nat, Steve, Miles, Katherine, David, Will, and Andrew M.

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for our Vestry,

In unison: Rob, Diane, Anne, April, Adriana, Kirsten, and Cliff

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for Buck Mountain Episcopal Church As we seek our
next priest, especially members of our Discernment Committee:

In unison: Doug, Amos, Ruth, Leslie, Linda, and Margaret.

Continuing in unison

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so
guide the minds of those who shall choose a priest for this church, that we may
receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, in your providence you chose your servant Patrick to be the apostle to the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of you: Grant us so to walk in that way that we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Confession Of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People in unison

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

All stand

BCP p. 360

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

The QR code will take you to our online giving tool. Use your cell phone camera to scan the code. A pop up box should appear on your screen and you'll be taken to our Giving Tools site. Thank you!



Offertory Hymn *O for a thousand tongues to sing*

H 493

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The People remain standing.

Proper Preface

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. by him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 363

You may offer the Lord's prayer using either version and in any language.

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

As our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we now pray,

People and Celebrant

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

COMMUNION HYMN *The King of love my shepherd is*

H 645

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

BCP p. 366

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

SERVING:

Today

March 15th

Ushers	Leslie Richard & Adriana Nicholson	Miles Fowler Mike Gibson
Acolytes	Ben Walter	Leslie Richard
Lector	Cathy Mancuso	Bea Lyons
Altar Guild	Leslie Richard	Janet Wiley Holly Fesler
Eucharistic Min	Silvia LaRue Art Symmes	Doug Smith Holly Fesler
Vestry	Diane Symmes	April Martin
Piano/Organ	Tara Scott	Tara Scott
Altar Flowers:	Lent No Flowers	Lent No Flowers
Refreshments:	TBD	TBD

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Holy Eucharist, Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer: according to the Use of the Episcopal Church).

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Buck Mountain Episcopal Church livestreams our worship services each Sunday morning. Our camera covers the area including the altar and the ambo (lectern/pulpit).

If you do not wish to be on camera as you come forward and receive communion, please tell the usher and we will bring communion to you in the aisle.

Notes for Visitors:

BCP – the Red Book of Common Prayer

Service Music from the front pages of the Hymnal are marked with an S.

LEVAS is the red and black hymnal named Lift Every Voice and Sing.

Hymns from the Blue Hymnal are marked with an H. Visitors.

Renew is the tan paperback music.

The building next to the sanctuary is called Deese Hall. You will find restrooms in the far-right corner of the building.

The Episcopal church recognizes baptisms in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit from any denomination as sufficient to receive communion to receive communion. (Canon I.17.7 of the General Convention.)

Episcopalians invite all baptized people to receive, not because we take the Eucharist lightly, but because we take our Baptism so seriously.

Those who are not yet baptized are welcome to come forward during communion to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate you would like the blessing.

Gluten-free hosts/bread are available. It helps if you tell the usher before the service begins so we have what we need at the altar.

The common cup may be received in the traditional fashion (i.e., sipping directly from the common cup). You may carefully dip the bread in the wine making sure your fingers to not make contact with the wine or the edge of the cup.

Get connected: Fill in the visitor information card