



*Sunday, June 22, 2025
2nd Sunday after Pentecost*



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org

PRELUDE

The Heart of Worship

Matt Redman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention kids: You are welcome to select something from the activity baskets to use during worship! They are located near the entrance to the sanctuary. Ask an usher if you need help!

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who looks upon us with compassion, forgives our sins, and heals our lives.

Amen.

We confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy, O God,

against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through ☩ Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: GALATIANS 3:23-29

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

²⁶ Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

**#1 We pray for the church. Clothe us in Christ, shower us in mercy, send us in love. Strengthen the faith and witness of Christians across the planet and Christians in our community. God of grace,
hear our prayer.**

#2 We pray for creation. Deliver the earth from disaster, bring forth life amid uncertainty, inspire wonder at all you have made. Sustain all people who delight in the well-being of your creation: farmers, agricultural workers, gardeners, birdwatchers, conservationists, scientists, advocates, and policy makers. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 We pray for the nations. Pave a way to justice, drown the forces of oppression, bring peace on earth. Give leaders the will to turn from war and violence. When people must flee their homes, guide them to safety. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who journey the road of faith by our side, especially these children, youth and young adults: Pearl, Parker, Preston, Quinn, and Rachel, as well as our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Comforting God, bring new hope to all in need.

We give thanks for those who are celebrating, especially:

- Paulette and John C, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

We pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of:

- Karen, mother-in-law of Lynn M, Linda J's daughter, who died on 6/13
- The Very Rev. William P, who died on 6/5

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Howard S who is recovering at home following several recent hospitalizations
- Anita T as she transitions back to her home at St. John's
- Tom O, son of Ron O, who is undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma
- Nora, young daughter of Lisa W's co-worker, who is hospitalized while undergoing treatment for cancer

Hear the names of those we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for individual prayer.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE

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

Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor. If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

OFFERING

Thank you for your offerings that support the ongoing ministry that we share. Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.



OFFERING OF MUSIC

Morning Has Broken
(BUNESSAN)

Old Gaelic melody

BLC Dulcimers

OFFERTORY

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano (S1) and Alto (A1), in a two-part setting. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily composed of half notes and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with the Soprano part on the top staff and the Alto part on the bottom staff. The lyrics are: 1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

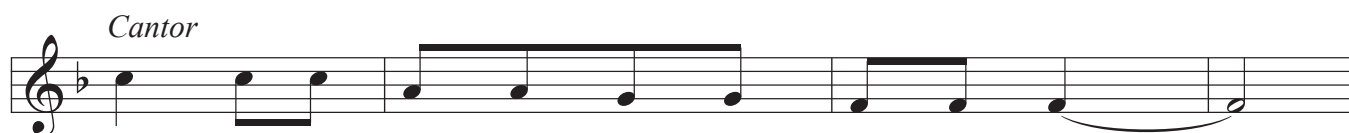
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

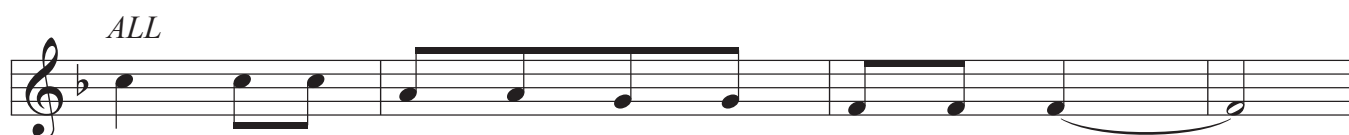
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Cantor



1. Gath - er us in - to one through bread and wine,
2. Pour out up - on us now your Spir - it, Lord,

ALL



gath - er us in - to one through bread and wine.
pour out up - on us now your Spir - it, Lord.

Cantor



Fill us up to be your liv - ing pres - ence,
Breathe new life and send us to your peo - ple,

ALL



fill us up to be your liv - ing pres - ence.
breathe new life and send us to your peo - ple.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice!

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant.

THE COMMUNION

HYMN FOR COMMUNION

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God,
**you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out
by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in
Jesus' name. Amen.**

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Give to Our God Immortal Praise!	ELW 848
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Majestic Postlude

Mark L. Williams

BLC Pastors

The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Chrisanne Gates, Chancel Choir Director

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Thank you . . . to Michael Koncilja, for serving as our organist and pianist today.

Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Talk with one of the pastors following worship or send an email to volunteersupport@blcfairport.org and we'll follow up!

Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at www.blcfairport.org. Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at office@blcfairport.org or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Our co-Pastors are available Sunday – Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org.

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“God of the Fertile Fields” – stanza 1&2 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796
Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188
“Glory to you, God” Music: J. Bert Carlson © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 12 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)
“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” Text: Handt Hanson; Music: Handt Hanson
© 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.
“Come, Let Us Eat” Music: Billema Kwillia, adapt. © Lutheran World Federation
“Morning Has Broken” Music: Old Gaelic melody Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress
“The Heart of Worship” Music: Matt Redman © 1998 and 2008 Thankyou Music
“Majestic Postlude” Music: Mark L. Williams © 1998 Lorenz Publishing Company

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announcements!***



between sundays



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Proclaiming How Much Jesus Has Done

We feel powerless when life's storms rage about us. Despite our best efforts, we cannot navigate those dangers without the hand of God to guide and free us.

In the gospel, the man with demons was unable to help himself. His affliction had caused him to be chained and shackled by his community. Yet even that could not control the raging evil within him. He remained helpless and ostracized on his own until he was emancipated by the power of God in Christ. Even though he was an outsider from the land of the Geresenes, Jesus came to his aid. He cast out the legion of demons in the man and sent them into the nearby herd of pigs, who then flung themselves off the bank. Though that dramatic event caused fear and confusion, the man was at last set free and commissioned by Jesus as a witness to his stunning liberation.

Paul reflects on the human condition of being "imprisoned" and "guarded" and the necessity of Christ to restore us. He reminds us of the power of our baptism to free and unite us. The text goes on to make the radically inclusive statement that there is no longer "Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

Together, these texts recount the journey of faith from bondage to freedom, from separation to unity, from death to new life. And this is a path open to all, no matter who we are or from whence we've come. The scriptures energize us to join that man in the gospel who went out proclaiming "how much Jesus had done for him," even to those who would rather not hear it.