



*Sunday, September 14, 2025*  
*14th Sunday after Pentecost*



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)

## PRELUDE

Amazing Grace

David Cherwien

tune, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*God knows every bit of you and loves you just the way you are. Your voice, your presence, your worship matters to God and to the BLC community! Claimed by God in the waters of baptism and fed at Christ's table of mercy, YOU MATTER!*

## GATHERING

*Una versión en español de la orden de culto de hoy está disponible en el himnario azul All Creation Sings que comienza en la página 8.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains all of creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

To you, O God,

**all hearts are open, to you all desires are known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

**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



1 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!  
1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!  
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre! ¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre!  
To God be glo-ry for - ev - er! To God be glo-ry for - ev - er!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!  
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!  
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!  
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **HEARING GOD’S WORD**

### **DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS AND JOY!**

*All kids ages 3 through elementary are welcome to a special time of hearing the Word, conversation and activity! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in designated spaces. **Worship for Kids** (Ages 3 – Grade 2) meets across the hall from the sanctuary and **JOY!** (Grades 3 – 5) meets downstairs. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.*

### **READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Sung two times

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first system contains two lines of lyrics, and the second system contains two lines of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris'n in - deed.

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

<b>HYMN OF THE DAY</b>	<b>Come As You Are</b>
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Cantor: stanza 1

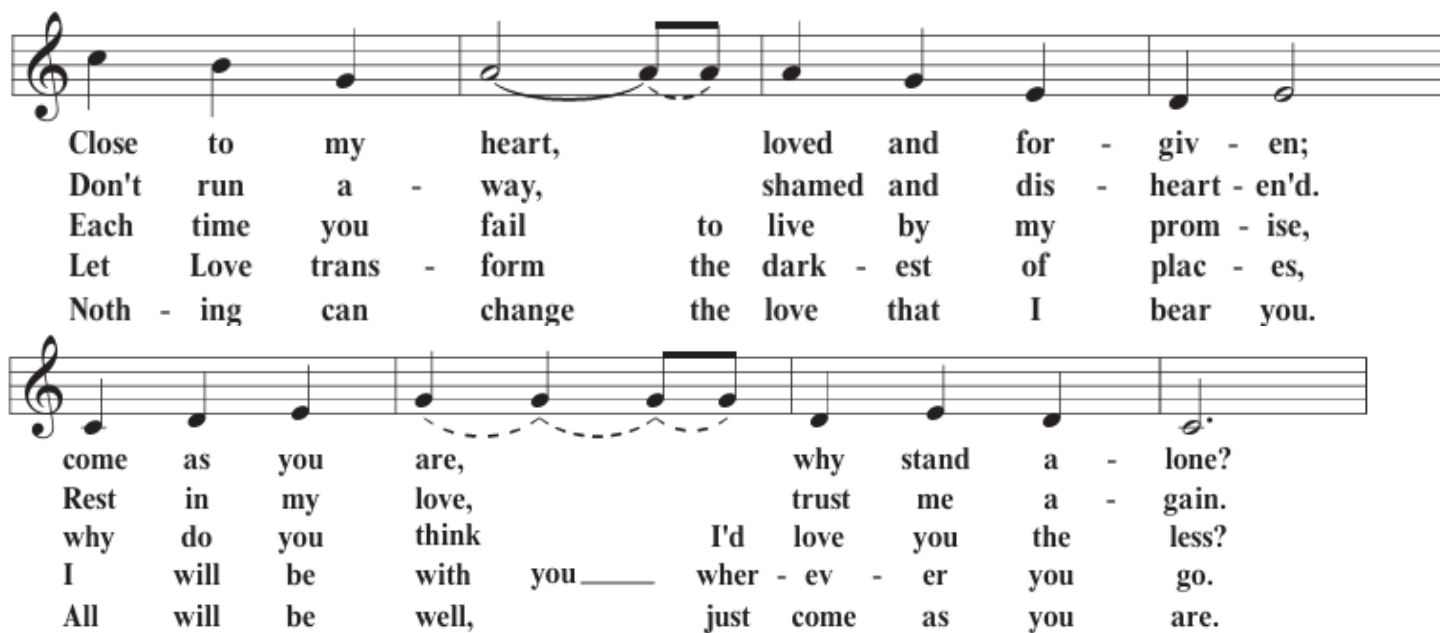
All: sts. 2, 3, 4, 5



1. Come as you are, that's how I want you.  
2. No need to fear, love sets no limits.  
3. I came to call sin - ners, not just the vir - tuous. I  
4. Go to my peo - ple, sit with the bro - ken.  
5. Come as you are, that's how I love you.

Come as you are, feel quite at home.  
No need to fear, love nev - er ends.  
came to bring peace, not to con - demn.  
Go to my peo - ple, stand in their pain.  
Come as you are, trust me a - gain.





Close to my heart, loved and for - giv - en;  
 Don't run a - way, shamed and dis - heart - en'd.  
 Each time you fail to live by my prom - ise,  
 Let Love trans - form the dark - est of plac - es,  
 Noth - ing can change the love that I bear you.

come as you are, why stand a - lone?  
 Rest in my love, trust me a - gain.  
 why do you think I'd love you the less?  
 I will be with you — wher - ev - er you go.  
 All will be well, just come as you are.

## 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.*

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

#1 Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

#2 Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

#3 Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Second Sunday Dinner Ministry, for those who prepare and package meals, those who deliver meals, and all who are nourished by this ministry; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. May our partnerships remind us of your abundance. God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We know that all people matter in your eyes and you know their cares and concerns, their hopes and joys. We pray for those whose needs are known to us.



*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Murray, husband of Jeff H's cousin, for health concerns.
- Emma M, daughter of Calvin and Lynn M and granddaughter of Dan and Linda J) who was just diagnosed with cancer.
- Tom P, father of Jason P, who is experiencing health challenges
- Phyllis S, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery on 9/8
- Leeann L, friend of Ron M, who had a heart attack and is at Strong Hospital
- Marilynn, mother of Jeff C, who was recently hospitalized

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

*Silence for individual prayer.*

God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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](http://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

His Eye Is on the Sparrow  
(sparrow)

words, Civilla D. Martin  
music, Charles H. Gabriel / arr. Mark Hayes

The Chancel Choir

## OFFERTORY

Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of three staves of music in treble clef. The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staves.

God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful,  
**you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn  
our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care;  
and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord. 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.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and hearth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,  
**and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.**

Glory and praise to you, O God,  
Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## 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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

**Thanks be to God!**

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

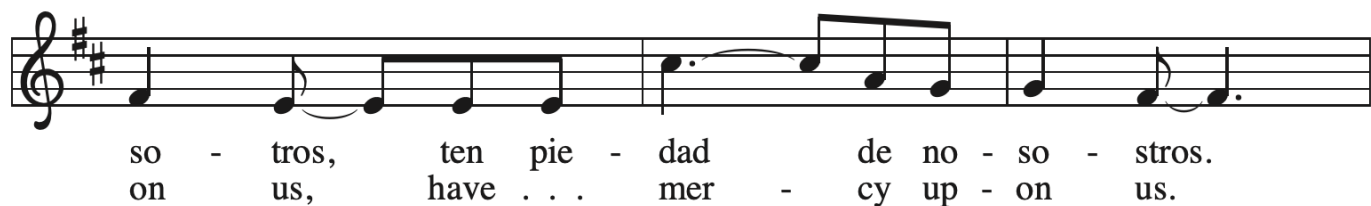
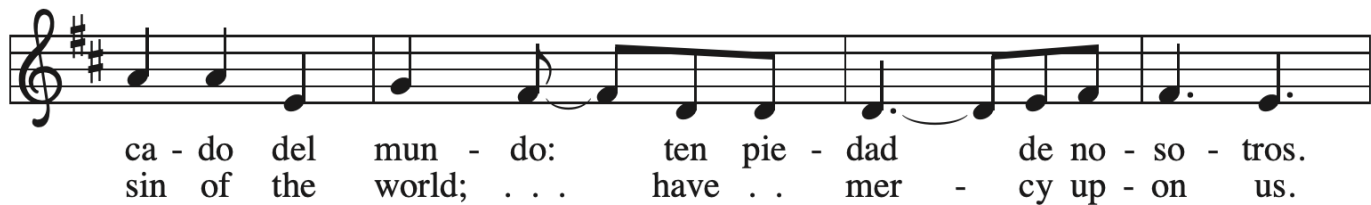
*Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant.*

## THE COMMUNION



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -  
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the

ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.



## HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

By Your Hand You Feed Your People  
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 469

ELW 789

## TABLE BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá*  
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

*pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.*  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

*Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar*  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

*un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;*  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

*me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.*  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

*A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.*  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

## **LEAVING TO SERVE**

### **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

<b>SENDING HYMN</b>	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	ELW 807
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### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

Nun danket alle Gott  
(Now Thank We All Our God)

Johann Christoph Kellner



## **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

## Additional musical leadership provided by:

Donna Berner, cantor

James Berner, guitar

Rich Towsley, guitar

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

**Church office hours:** Molly Vasey is in the office from 9am - 1pm Tuesday - Thursday and can be reached by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org). Our co-Pastors are available Sunday – Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling the church office or emailing [pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org) or [pastor.amy@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.amy@blcfairport.org)





## Evergreen East Food Distribution

Sundays, July 20 thru September 21

We'll begin packing food in the parking lot at 10:30 AM (after worship) and then distribute food at 11:15 AM. Extra produce from your garden or any non-perishable items to add to the food cupboard are welcome!

Contact Julie Owen  
(jowen@heritagechristianservices.org) to get involved!



***Join BLC's email list  
to receive our weekly  
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and other  
announcements!***



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“Gloria a Dios” Music: anonymous, Peru © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 11 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)

Aleluya” Music: anonymous, Honduras © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 11 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)

“Praise and Thanksgiving” Text: Albert F. Bayly; Music: Gaelic tune (bunessan)

Text © Oxford University Press; Music (arr.) © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

“Cordero de Dios” Music: Rudy Espinoza © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 11 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)

“Amazing Grace”, Tune: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835, Setting: David Cherwien, ©1994 Summa Productions

“Come as You Are”, Text and Music: Deirdre Browne ibvm, Arranger: David Putney, © Deirdre Browne ibvm, Melbourne, Australia

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”, Words: Civilla D. Martin, Music: Charles H. Gabriel / arr. Mark Hayes, Tune: SPARROW

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“Be Thou My Vision” Music: Alice Parker; Tune: Irish traditional © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

“Nun danket alle Gott”, Music: Johann Christoph Kellner, © 1994 Belwin Mills, c/o CPP/Belwin, Inc.



## Lost and Found

Today's readings give witness that God has a heart for losers. The risen Lord calls the violent, blasphemous persecutor, Paul. The faithful shepherd rescues the wandering sheep and carries it home. The woman who lost one of her ten silver coins searches for it until she finds it. Similarly, God doesn't abandon people even when people abandon God. The cross and resurrection testify to God's faithfulness in that regard. God rescues strays one by one, making the first move to find the lost and create new hearts in them. When Moses holds God to promises already made in the covenant (in Exodus 32:7-14), the breathtaking picture emerges of a God so committed to relationship that God is influenced—changed—by what people need and ask. This faithfulness of God, shared with overflowing grace in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus, is patient, forgiving, energetic, and ready to celebrate. Take the bread and cup—Jesus hosts the worshiping assembly again this week to welcome sinners and eat with them! Suddenly, "sinner" is no longer the best name for us. Try "guest," "graced," "gifted," "loved," and "empowered." Then it's time to follow Jesus out of the gathered assembly and into the world as apprentice sleuths for missing persons, bent on finding the lost and the broken and giving them an invitation to come home.