



Sunday, November 8 ~ 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

The Israelites called Jerusalem home because they believed God lived in Jerusalem. Yet, the Babylonian exile robs them not just of their home, but their identity, their welfare, and their perceived proximity to God. The prophet Jeremiah delivers a startling message to those in Babylon—to settle in, build homes, and plant gardens in that foreign land. What does this mean for those in exile? Where does God dwell when we are uprooted? What does God—what does Love—say when our dreams unravel?

Prelude: Adagio from *Fifth Symphony*

Charles Marie Widor

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

If possible, prepare your worship space with a cup filled with water and an empty bowl. The presence of water reminds us of God's forgiveness that comes to us through the Sacrament of Baptism. During this time of continued physical distancing, we cling with confident hope to the promise that by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism.

Call to Worship and Confession:

Sometimes life takes us where we don't expect.

Sometimes, God takes us where we don't expect.

In worship, we gather to get in touch with God's bigger narrative.

In worship, we gather to expand our hearts.

So let us worship the God of unending surprises.

Let us worship the God of love.

As we gather, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

Amen

Giving thanks that we become brothers and sisters in Christ through the gift of baptism, we share God's peace with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Gathering Hymn :

Gather Us In

#532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. O Lord God, when our life unravels in transition, root us in a community of support and flourishing. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Song of Thanksgiving

ELW 508, vs 1

As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth, as snow from the heav-ens re -
fresh-ing the land. Then soft-en our soil that the good seed may grow and rip-en rich
fruit to re - turn to your hand. We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word; we
thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten - der toil. We bless you, best farm-er, for
hun-dred-fold yield, for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.

Reading: Jeremiah 29:1-7

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ²This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. ³The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: ⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the

exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

#502

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ee - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Apostles Creed:

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

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.**

Offering

Though we meet virtually, the ministry of God's people at BLC continues. Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. This time of uncertainty and reduced physical contact gives us ever more opportunities to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you are able, please continue your financial commitment to BLC.

If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.



Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offering of Music:

Prelude on “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Organist, Susan DePasquale

Keith Kolander

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good, the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food. No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts, but what you most would trea - sure, our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts. All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove. We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Merciful God,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those whose needs are known to us listed below. You may also lift up the name of someone in need of prayer in the comments of our worship livestream.

God of relationship, even as we struggle to maintain our distance from each other, you remind us how joined we are to one another and to your creation. Hear these prayers that we raise.

Heavenly Father, focus those we have recently elected to discern your will and to respond with good judgement and compassion to the needs of our planet and its population. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, console those impacted by hate and violence last Monday in Vienna. Give our world peace; we really need a heavy dose right now. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sustaining God, we pray today not only for ourselves but for all those in the world. We pray for the spiritual and physical well-being of our sisters and brothers in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. We pray for all in our Fairport faith community, especially Mark & Glenda, Bob & Judy, Brad & Debbie, Bill & Jeanine, Jessica, Michael, Julia, Peter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you know our needs better than we ourselves. Hear these prayers that we offer:

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Evelyn & Willard Ekegren (parents of Kay Slattery) who have moved into assisted living
- Bishop John Macholz who is recovering from surgery to remove his gallbladder on 11/6
- Brian Edwards as he awaits test results
- Florence King (mother of David Chaffee) who is in ICU following a stroke and emergency surgery
- Chris (son of Learning Links tutor) who is in Neuro-ICO following a fall
- Meg (20-year-old daughter of Learning Links tutor) who is recovering from Oral Cancer surgery and relearning to talk
- Lawson (toddler friend of Learning Links family) who has fought cancer for over a year
- Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with the Coronavirus and their caregivers
 - Mary Osgood

Hear also the prayers we raise individually in our hearts or on our lips.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive all these prayers and those too deep for words through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

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

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**

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Benediction:

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:	<i>Abide, O Dearest Jesus</i>	#539
---------------	-------------------------------	------

(music on the following page)

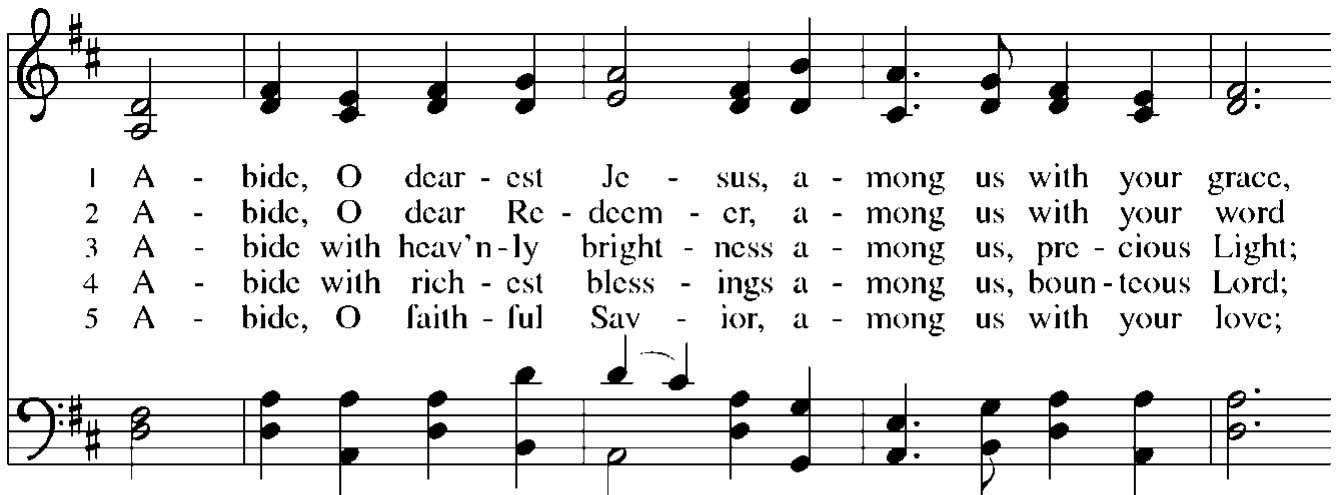
Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

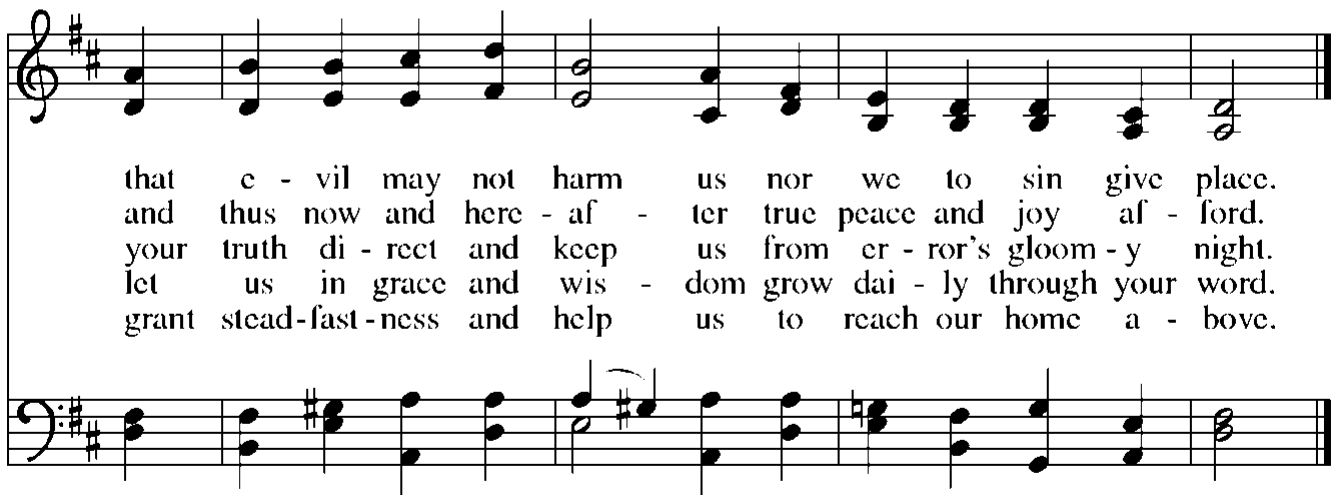
Narthex Chats

Postlude: Fanfare-Improvisation

Charles Callahan



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace,
 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, a - mong us with your word
 3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness a - mong us, pre - cious Light;
 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings a - mong us, boun - teous Lord;
 5 A - bide, O faith - ful Sav - ior, a - mong us with your love;



that e - vil may not harm us nor we to sin give place.
 and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford.
 your truth di - rect and keep us from er - ror's gloom - y night.
 let us in grace and wis - dom grow dai - ly through your word.
 grant stead - fast - ness and help us to reach our home a - bove.

Text: Jostia Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923
 Music: CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

Calendar for week of November 8 – November 15

(Updated on 11/3/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, November 8

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Coffee with a
Pastor
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
10:00 am Zoom* Pre-K to 2nd
Grade Monthly Meet-Up
([Join](#) or use ID 853 8991 1172)
10:30 am Zoom* Finance
Committee Meeting
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, November 9

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)
7:00 pm Zoom* GFL
Confirmation
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, November 10

10:15 am Zoom* Worship
Committee Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 874 4193 1718)
4:30 pm Zoom* Education
Planning Meeting
6:30 pm Zoom* Re-opening Team
([Join](#) or use ID 824 6235 3239)

Wednesday, November 11

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
6:00 pm Zoom* Mission & Social
Concerns Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, November 12

Friday, November 13

Pastor's Sabbath

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, November 14

9:15 am Property Committee

Sunday, November 15

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Coffee with a
Pastor
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
10:00 am Zoom* 3rd to 5th
Grade Monthly Meet-Up
([Join](#) or use ID 890 1964 4442)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

For additional details about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

***To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

***Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

Reflection

By now some within the community of Bethlehem Lutheran are relieved by the results of this week's election and for some the level of anxiety has only heightened. The 2020 election has exposed divisions that have left families scarred and friendships broken. I hear family and friends asking questions and trying to understand the results of this election. In this environment, I continue to ask the perennial Lutheran question, "What does this mean?"

God has always promised to walk with us in the midst of fear, anxiety, and questions. Again and again in scripture, when God's people face uncertainty, God's messengers greet them with the simple greeting, "Do not fear." We need not fear because we live confident of Christ's promise, "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20). The results of this week's election may leave us confused or troubled and uncertain of where to turn, but Christ is with us even now.

And because Christ is still *with* us and living *through* us, we continue to serve as his hands, his feet, his heart, and his words in this world. Loving our neighbors as Christ loves us remains our ever-present task, but a task made harder when the divides between us are laid bare as they have been in this election. On *both* sides of the political divide, I've heard voices ask, "How can I love my neighbors when their views threaten my very existence?"

I feel stuck. On the one hand, I believe that our path forward depends upon remembering our shared humanity and recalling that even my neighbor who voted differently than me, carries the image and likeness of God. On the other hand, I realize that even suggesting such a thing to those who feel threatened feels like a painful betrayal. It's easy for me to say, "let's just love our neighbors" when I don't personally fear that my neighbor wants to destroy me or my way of life.

If you find yourself deeply wounded and hurting this week, know that Christ sees you. Christ hears you. Christ is with you. Christ wants *you* to have and know abundant life.

And if, like me, you find yourself wondering how we find a path forward in the midst of so much division, remember that Christ calls us to join him on the right road where he offers abundant life for *all* people and asks us to be partners in making this abundant life visible. We join him on the journey and ask him to give us faith to travel with courage and hope, not knowing where we go, but confident that his hand is leading us, and his love supporting us.

~ Pastor Amy

Graphic Design by Lauren Wright Pittman | Original photography by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Call to Worship by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

Confession from Sundays and Seasons Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.

From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43732.

Permission to stream and print the music in this service obtained from OneLicense under Annual License #A-724002

Reprinted by permission under CCLI Annual License #11159563

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education

Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.