

Sunday, January 24 ~ *Third Sunday after Epiphany*

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

Prelude: Three Swedish Folk Songs
 Thy Holy Wings (ELW #613)
 Children of the Heavenly Father (ELW #781)
 Oh, Let Your Soul Now Be Filled with Gladness (Augsburg)

arr. John Ferguson

Gathering Words and Welcome

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

If possible, prepare a worship space in your home with a bowl of water. 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.

Confession and Forgiveness:

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the Creator, the Beloved One, the Comforter.
Amen.

Beloved in the Lord: we confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins – those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✠ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's

forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

In the waters of baptism we become siblings of Christ and 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 :

Heaven Is Singing for Joy

#664



El cie - lo can - ta_a - le - grí - a, ¡a - le - lu - ya!,
1 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
2 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
3 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,



por-que_en tu vi - da_y la mí - a bri - lla la glo - ria de Dios.
for in your life and mine is shin - ing the glo - ry of God.
for your life and mine u - nite in the love of our God.
for your life and mine will al - ways bear wit - ness to God.

Refrain / Estribillo



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

2 *El cielo canta alegría, ¡aleluya!,
porque_a tu vida_y la mía
las une_el amor de Dios. Estribillo*

3 *El cielo canta alegría, ¡aleluya!,
porque tu vida_y la mía
proclamarán al Señor. Estribillo*

Text: Pablo Sosa, b. 1933
Music: ALEGRÍA, Pablo Sosa
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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. Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12

⁵For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.

⁶He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

⁸Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

⁹Those of low estate are but a breath,
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰Put no confidence in extortion,

and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

¹¹Once God has spoken;

twice have I heard this:

that power belongs to God,

¹²and steadfast love belongs to you, O LORD.

For you repay to all

according to their work.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Love Has Come #292, vs 3

Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev-er - last-ing and free. Love is

Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love!

Love! Love is the gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high! ____

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



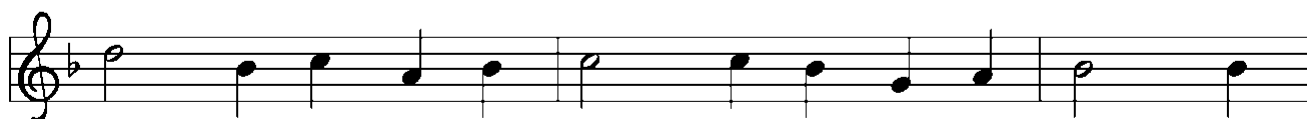
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
 2 Je-sus is ours! . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
 death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
 change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
 glo-ry with heart and voice; all heav'n re-joice-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
 in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
 glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
 and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

The Apostles' Creed:

Together 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:

**“This Little Light Of Mine”/”I Love To Tell The Story”
BLC Folk Group (Rich Towsley, director)**



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. 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.'

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. O God,

receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. 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.

Though physically distant, you call us into unity with one another and the whole creation. Let us pray for our shared world. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the congregation of Bethlehem and for your church around the world. Today we pray for Lee, Lisa, Bob and Wendy, Justin and Kelly (Andrew Allison and Aaron), and John and Kristine (Nate and Lauren). We also pray for our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of Compassion, you know our need better than we ourselves. Be with those who suffer this day; either physically or emotionally. Be with their caregivers, their loved ones and give them all hope and love. Be with those who suffer from the Coronavirus or those who cannot be with loved ones because of quarantine. Be with those that we name silently in our hearts or aloud.

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

- Ron, brother of former BLC Member Bob who died on 1/19
- Walter, father of Glen who died on 1/10

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- We pray for Shekeria and Dimitri, siblings who were abducted from their foster home on 1/18. We give thanks for their safe return and continue our prayers of healing for the whole family.
- David, brother of Ron, who is recovering from carotid artery surgery on 1/18
- Evelyn, mother of Kay who is recovering from a recent fall
- Joanne, mother of Vicki who is recovering from a recent stroke
- 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 or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers
 - Bethany
 - Ethan, grandson of Kay

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, be with our new president and vice president and all the leaders of our country. Heal the wounds of a divided nation and give them the strength to begin the long journey toward unity. Be with each of us and help us to listen to those with differing opinions. Help us to listen with kindness, not hatred. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you direct us to follow Jesus so that we may be transformed by your love just as Jesus transformed the disciples through his love. Be with us in our quest to follow him. Walk beside us along this journey called life. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, in your deep compassion, receive these prayers we offer to you 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:

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:	<i>In Thee Is Gladness</i>	#867
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(Music on the following page)

Go in peace beloved ones. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Narthex Chat

Postlude:

Chorale Prelude on "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" (ELW #310)

Johan Pachelbel



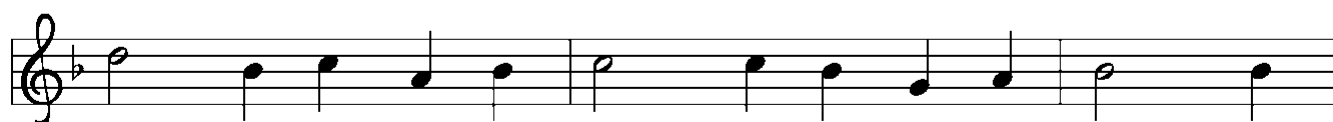
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heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
 death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
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break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
 glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
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pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
 glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
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Calendar for week of January 24 – January 31

(Last updated on 1/20/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, January 24

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Coffee & Crucial
Conversation hosted by the
Pastors
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, January 25

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 208
7:00 pm Zoom* GFL
Confirmation
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, January 26

BLC Office Closed**
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

Wednesday, January 27

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
3:00 pm Education Planning
Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, January 28

Friday, January 29

Pastor Amy Time Away*
10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, January 30

Sunday, January 31

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Coffee & Crucial
Conversation hosted by the
Pastors
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
6:30 pm Zoom* Story time for
pre-K through 5th grade and
families
([Join](#) or use ID 815 7566 9638)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

***Pr. Amy will have time away** beginning Friday, January 29 and continuing through Sunday, February 7. Pastor Amy has arranged for coverage for pastoral emergencies (i.e. death, family or individual crisis). Please contact the church office and leave a message on the Pastoral Care line. Your request will be forwarded to the pastoral leader on call.

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office** on Tuesdays from January 5 – March 10. Pastor Amy remains available on Tuesdays and can be reached by phone when she is not in the office.

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.**

When Saying Yes Requires Saying No

It was one of those thought-for-the-day-calendars you find in your Christmas stocking. The sayings mostly were trite and pithy, but every so often there was a truth worth repeating, for example: "Decide what you want and what you are willing to exchange for it. Set your priorities and go to work." In other words, if we're serious, saying yes to one thing often requires saying no to something else.

Jonah—after fleeing from the mission to which God was calling him (and three days and nights in the belly of the fish!)—now says "No!" to his former urges and "Yes!" to God as he sets out as God's prophet to Nineveh. Paul invites us to say "No!" to trivial matters and "Yes!" to the things of God that have serious and eternal consequences. Jesus calls the disciples to say "No!" to their boats and nets and families and much of everything else they have known and to say "Yes!" to his "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."

We feel a kinship with Jonah's situation, because he struggles. He runs away from God and only relents after a huge fish vomits him onto a distant shore. The call-response stories of Simon, Andrew, James, and John make it all seem so easy. One little word of invitation from Jesus and these men turn in an instant from fishers to disciples.

But most of us live somewhere in the middle, not resisting God's call with the vigor of Jonah but certainly responding more slowly and ambiguously than the disciples. So a question for today is: To what is God calling us to say "No!"? Remember, it's not just the ugly stuff but often good things that must be denied for the sake of following Jesus. And then we must also ask in faith: To what is Jesus inviting us to say "Yes!"?

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