

## Sunday, February 7 ~ *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

*In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

Prelude: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
We Are Marching in the Light of God

arr. Wayne L. Wold  
arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

Gathering Words and Welcome

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*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.

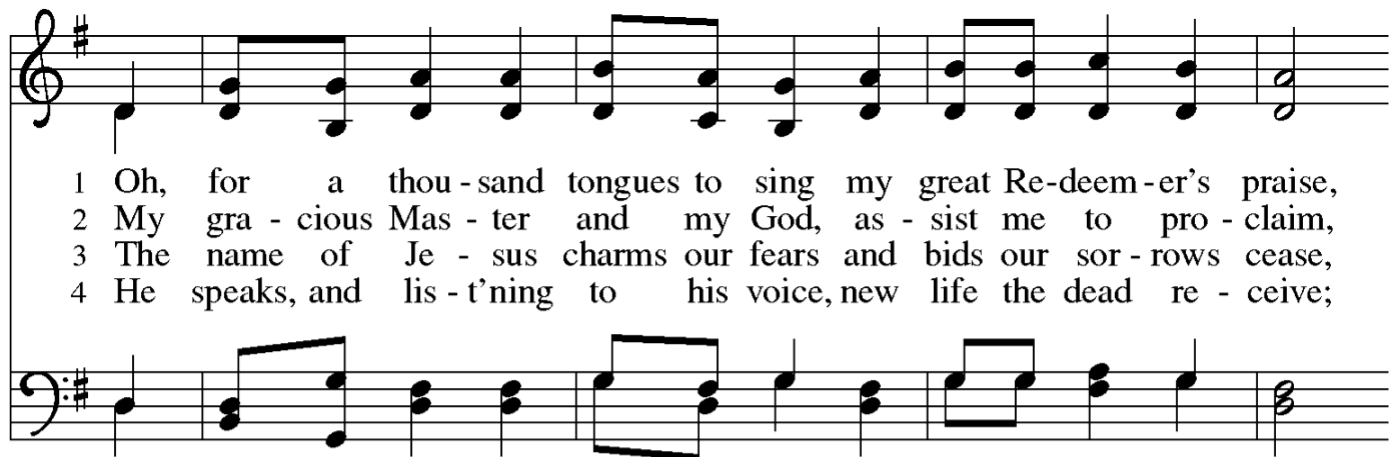
**And also with you.**

*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.*

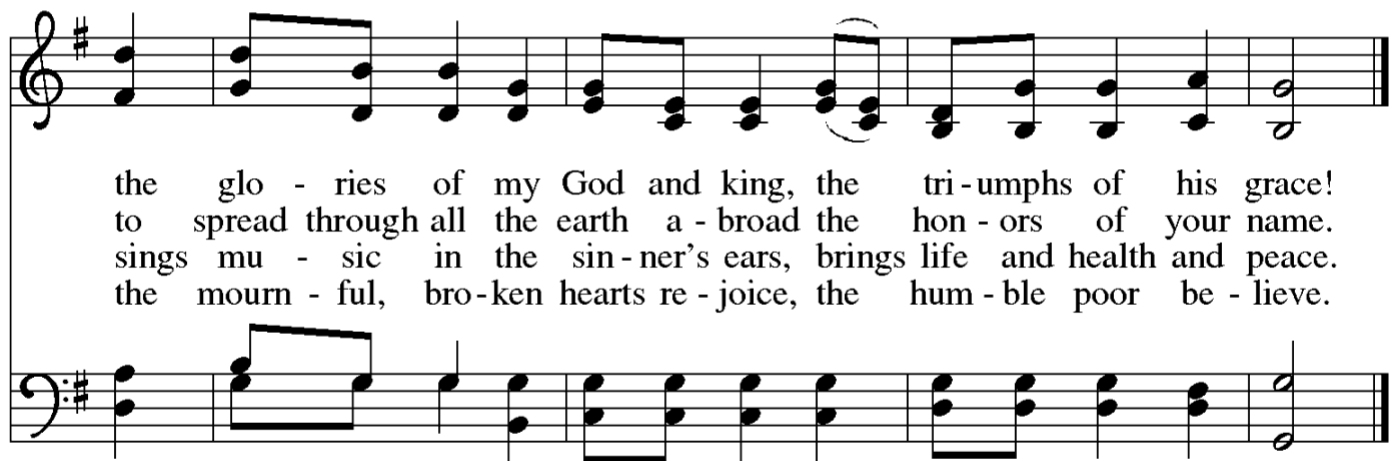
Gathering Hymn :

*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

#886



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,  
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

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. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Children's Moment

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

### **Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31**

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
How good it is to sing praises to our God;  
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.  
<sup>2</sup>The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
<sup>3</sup>He heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.  
<sup>4</sup>He determines the number of the stars;  
he gives to all of them their names.  
<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.  
<sup>6</sup>The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;  
he casts the wicked to the ground.  
<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre.  
<sup>8</sup>He covers the heavens with clouds,  
prepares rain for the earth,  
makes grass grow on the hills.  
<sup>9</sup>He gives to the animals their food,  
and to the young ravens when they cry.  
<sup>10</sup>His delight is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;  
<sup>11</sup>but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.  
Praise the LORD!  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Love Has Come #292, vs 3**



The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Mark 1:29-39**

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

1 O Christ, the heal-er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
2 From ev - 'ry ail-ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;  
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;  
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find

How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
yet in our hearts we would con-fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.  
our com - mon life de-clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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.**

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.

We pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs. Lord, we come to you to have our strength renewed. We place our trust in you alone to renew our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Grant us the strength to walk the hard, narrow, winding path. Give us the focus to conquer obstacles in our way. We cannot succeed alone – we trust you to be at our side. God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In today's Gospel, Jesus heals the sick. The people he heals are not just "of the body" sick, but also those who are ill in mind and spirit. Even with all the advances of medicine today, we still seek out Jesus' power of healing. We pray for those in need of healing, including:

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

- Bernice, mother of Kathy who died on 2/1
- Cathy, niece of Ruth who died on 1/30
- Anne, aunt of Marja who died on 1/24
- Nancy who died on 1/23

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

- Mark, friend of Mary, who is being treated for a mass on his spine
- Don, father of Kim who is recovering from pneumonia
- Joe, husband of Donna's friend who will be undergoing testing for health issues
- 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
  - Ken, brother-in-law of Linda
  - Waverly, friend of Phyllis
  - Bethany

and those we name before you aloud or silently . . . God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the congregation of Bethlehem and for your church around the world. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Jim & Caroline (Andrew), Todd & Sara (Abigail & Emerson), Jim & Ricki, Jim & Mary, John & Pat. We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the blessings you bestow upon us. All too often, blessings are the furthest thing from our mind. Let us take some time to call out some of our blessings, including:

- The birth of Cooper James (son of Kathryn & Chris, grandson of Roger & Rosemarie, and nephew of Russ & Erica)
- Mike who retired from the Navy on 1/31
- Each day of increasing sunlight
- Technology that keeps us in touch with family & friends
- Cards and letters (including Valentine cards for our homebound members) to let them know we are thinking of them
- All of God's creatures, whether pets or wild animals – for song birds that visit birdfeeders or sing to us from nearby perches
- For memories of loved ones who have passed before us
- And those blessings we name before you now, either aloud or silently

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

Receive these petitions, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL**

The Peace:

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.*

Gratitude from Troop 2019

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: God in Your Grace by Per Harling, arranged by Hal H. Hopson  
Chancel Choir (Director, Jim Jefferis)

Offertory:	<i>We Plow the Fields and Scatter</i>	#680 vs. 3
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A musical score for a offertory. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, written in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties.

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.**

Eucharistic Prayer:

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

In great love you sent us Jesus, your Son,

**Who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,

**we await his coming again in glory. Pour out upon us, the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

To you, Lord, with and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

**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**

Invitation to Communion:

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Communion:

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us,      ten pie-dad de no - so-tros. have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us,      ten pie-dad de no - so-tros. have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, grant us your peace,      da - nos tu paz. grant us your peace.

*If you will not be communing at Bethlehem today, we encourage you to speak the words of Blessing at the end of today's service.*

*Distribution of Communion:*

*All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. We invite you to make your way to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY until 11 am this morning. All participants are expected to wear masks. When you arrive, please use the main entrance of the church and ushers will direct you to the communion table. Those who need the assistance of the lift are welcome to use the Perrin Street entrance. When you are ready to receive the bread and wine, you may remove your mask. Children and others who do not commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the worship assistant.*

*When you have received communion, you are invited to conclude today's liturgy with your household.*

**Post-Communion Prayer:**

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

**Amen.**

**Blessing:**

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

**Amen.**

## Calendar for week of February 7 – February 14

(Last updated on 2/3/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, February 7

#### **Scout Sunday**

8:30 am Facebook  
Livestream  
Worship followed by Holy  
Communion – the sanctuary  
will be open for people to  
receive communion until 11 am  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

### Monday, February 8

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, February 9

#### **BLC Office Closed\*\***

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019  
6:30 pm Zoom\* Re-Opening  
Team Meeting  
([Join](#) or use ID 824 6235 3239)

### Wednesday, February 10

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

### Thursday, February 11

6:30 pm Zoom\* BLC Officers  
([Join](#) or use ID 836 8734 2559)

### Friday, February 12

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

### Saturday, February 13

9:15 am Property Committee

### Sunday, February 14

8:30 am Facebook  
Livestream  
Worship  
9:45 am Zoom\* Quarterly  
Dialogue  
([Join](#) or use ID 843 6583 5221)  
11:00 am Zoom\* Book/Bible  
Study  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 3566 5634)  
6:30 pm Zoom\* Story time for  
pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and  
families  
([Join](#) or use ID 815 7566 9638)  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

**\*\*Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office** on Tuesdays through 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](mailto: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.**

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## God Heals Persons and Communities

When Jesus heals us, we are empowered to serve others. While at first glance it might seem that Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law was self-serving, on further reflection we see the same result in nearly all of his signs and miracles. The object of Jesus' compassion now has new responsibilities. In the very next chapter a paralytic lowered through the ceiling is raised, only to become the center of a religious controversy (Mark 2:3-12), as was the man who lay by the pool of Beth-zatha for thirty-eight years (John 5:2-15). When Jesus calms the storm (Mark 4:35-41) the disciples have to row the rest of the way! Any meaningful encounter with Jesus will result in our being changed, which in turn alters the way we see our relationship to the needs of others and the world.

Hard economic times, natural disasters, and divisive, party strife can make us feel helpless and hopeless, as if we have been abandoned by God. Even the church—local congregations as well as denominations—may feel fear and panic in the face of declining numbers and revenues, loss of loyalty from members, indifference or hostility from the surrounding culture, and internal sniping among factions. The exiled people of Israel in Babylon experienced all of this and more, so our condition is neither unique nor beyond the reach of our God. Isaiah 40:21-31 in the NRSV begins "Have you not known? Have you not heard?" Eugene Peterson, in *The Message*, translates this idea as "Have you not been paying attention? Have you not been listening?" There is some irony indeed that God's church, entrusted with God's salvation history and the gospel, still panics, still doubts and worries, still feels like it is up to us to save the church. We indeed are "clay jars" (2 Cor. 4:7)—carrying the message but not understanding, preaching salvation but not believing that God cares or will act to save. We live Isaiah 40 every day.

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