



Sunday, February 14 ~ *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

Prelude: Christ is the World's Light

(tune ELW #415)

arr. J. Bert Carlson

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 :

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

#314

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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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, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

¹The mighty one, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

³Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

⁵"Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

⁶The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; love is not irritable or resentful; ⁶love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to

face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

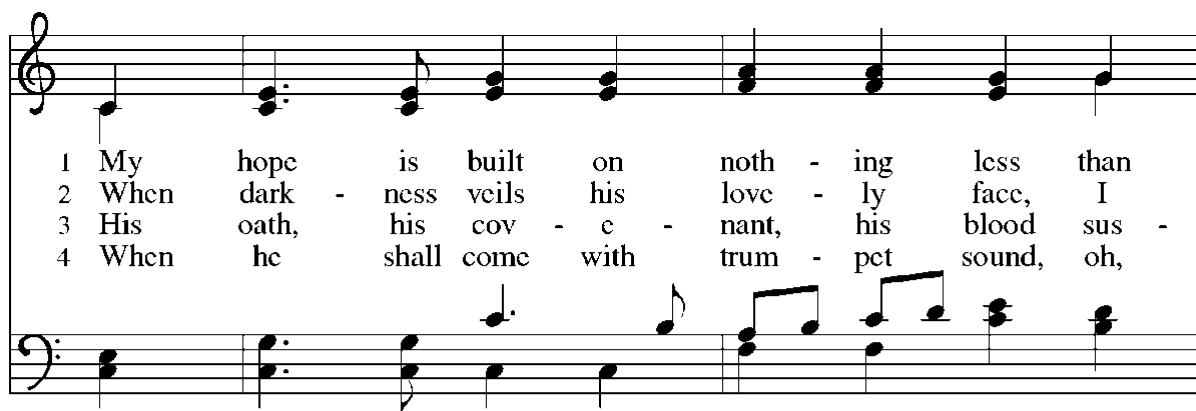
²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

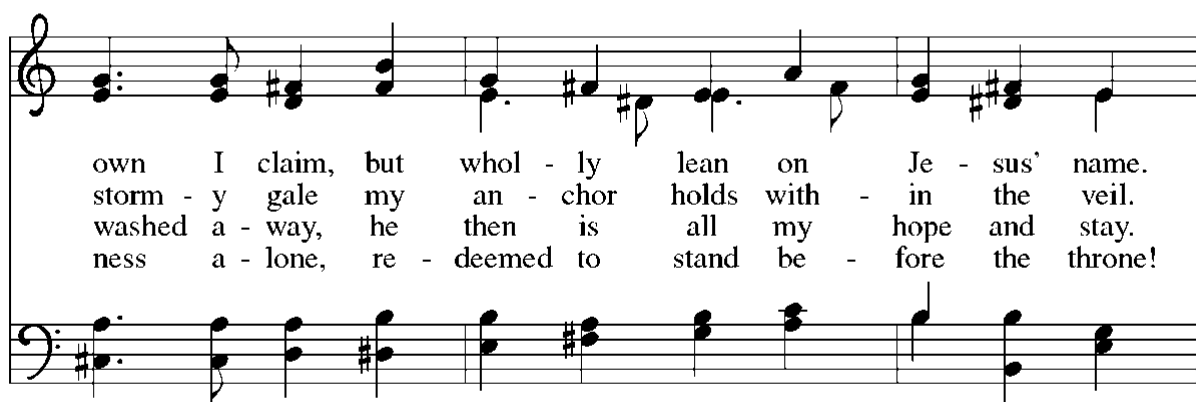
Sermon



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,




Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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: Pastorale on "Wie schön leuchtet" (ELW #308)
(Susan DePasquale, organ)

Michael Burkhardt



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.

On this Valentine's Day, we pray that all people around the world, particularly those who are struggling with loneliness, isolation, and despair, will be embraced in your abiding love. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the congregation of Bethlehem, our pastors and council, Bishop Macholz, Bishop Eaton, and for your church around the world. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Kathy and Joe, Kevin and Beth (Autumn and Ilana), Carol, Lori,

Mike (Ethan). We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you know our needs better than we ourselves. Be with those who are suffering this day and bring them hope. Heal all who are ill with the Coronavirus, cancer and other diseases. Comfort the caregivers, restore their strength. and grant patience to all who are exhausted by the constraints of quarantine. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear also these prayers we raise to you in our own voice.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- The Miller family (Kathryn, Christopher, and big sister Blakely) upon the arrival of Cooper James on 2/1
- Mike Higgins who retired from the Navy on 1/31

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

- Bernice Stevens, mother of Kathy Moragne who died on 2/1
- Cathy, niece of Ruth Kurtz who died on 1/30

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Jim Cook who is facing several health challenges.
- Jim Peterson, father of Hans Walter-Peterson, who begins a new chemotherapy treatment
- Evelyn & Willard Ekegren (parents of Kay Slattery) as Evelyn recovers from a fall and they prepare for a transition
- Maria Turco, friend of Neil Vokes whose cancer has spread
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock as she begins dialysis
- Mark Figura, friend of Mary Osgood, who is being treated for a mass on his spine
- Don Raw, father of Kim Kulik who is recovering from pneumonia
- 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 Montalbano

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, 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:

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn:	<i>Shine, Jesus, Shine</i>	#671

(words on the following page)

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

Thanks be to God.

Narthex Chat

Postlude: Allegretto

César Franck

* * * * *

Thank you to Pastor David Gerhardt... *for proclaiming God's Word among us! Pastor Gerhardt is a retired ELCA Pastor and member of this congregation. We are grateful for his witness among us.*

Chorus

*Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light*

Verse 1

*Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me*

Verse 2

*Lord I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me try me consume all my darkness
Shine on me shine on me*

Verse 3

*As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me*

CCLI Song # 30426

Graham Kendrick

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Calendar for week of February 14 – February 21

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

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 869 8659 4311)
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)

Monday, February 15

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 16

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

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday
9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)
3:00 pm Education Planning
Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:00 pm Zoom* Midweek Lenten
Worship Series (details to
follow)
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, February 18

6:30 pm Zoom* Church Council
([Join](#) or use ID 848 4548 0587)

Friday, February 19

Pastor's Sabbath
10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, February 20

Sunday, February 21

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Book/Bible
Study (**NOTE THE NEW TIME**)
([Join](#) or use ID 869 8659 4311)
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 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.**

Transfiguration: Amazing Then and Now

Imagine what would happen if someone from the days of Jesus were suddenly transported to our present. How would someone accustomed to walking everywhere respond to driving in a car at top speed, let alone flying in a jet? How would someone who spends their life depending on—at best—oil lamps for light respond to electric lights? It is fun to muse at how people might respond, as we reflect on how sophisticated we are.

Now imagine if the scene were reversed. How would someone accustomed to understanding much in the world around them respond to an event as otherworldly as the transfiguration? We understand volcanoes and the northern lights. We can explain lightning and thunder. We know about germs and disease transmission. So what would we do when confronted with something so amazing, awesome, and unexplainable?

The transfiguration is one of those ancient events that still puzzle us. What really happened to Jesus that day? Since we cannot go back to that time, we are left to speculate. We take stabs in the dark and make educated guesses, but at the end of the day we are left with a holy mystery to ponder.

Whatever happened that day, there is a timeless spiritual reality behind the physical details Mark gives us. God sometimes uses extreme and amazing methods to transform us when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit. God's spirit transfigured Jesus then. That same Spirit is still transforming people today. We don't have to explain first-century miracles to trust that God's transforming Spirit is timeless and at work within each of us today. We do not have to understand everything to see the beauty of God at work in the world, continually transfiguring us into the people we were created to be.

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