

Sunday, March 7 ~ *Third Sunday in Lent*

We see Jesus in the temple and realize that God will no longer be contained in buildings made of stone. In Jesus, God has left the building once and for all. Where do you see Jesus in worship and in our world today?

Prelude: Prelude on “Kedron” William Walker/arr. Wilbur Held

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

To prepare a worship space in your home light a candle, gather a bowl of water, and a cross. The candle reminds us of Christ’s light. The presence of water reminds us of God’s forgiveness that comes to us through Baptism. The cross reminds us Christ is present with us in all things. Over the last year, we have learned anew that Christ is with us wherever we gather, and by God’s love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism, across time and space.

Gathering Hymn :

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

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1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

(continued on the following page)

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bid.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872
 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

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.

Show us your ways, O Lord,

and teach us your paths.

Your word revives our souls;

your word is alive and gives wisdom.

You send forth your word as healing balm,

and in your word made flesh, Jesus Christ, you rescue us.

Kyrie:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



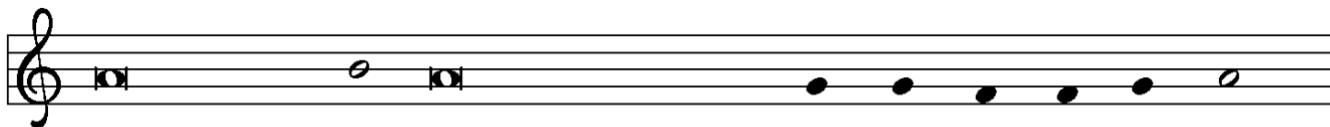
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 19

We read responsively from Psalm 19:

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
⁵**which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.**

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
**and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
**the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;**

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

⁹the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
**the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.**

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
**Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus, look
full in his won - der - ful face;
And the things of earth will grow strange - ly dim in the
light of his glo - ry and grace.

The gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jewish people was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will

consume me.” ¹⁸The Jewish authorities then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jewish authorities then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

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1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!

died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
 deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
 peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
 all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
 When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;

As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
 Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
 faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
 He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
 grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Response to the Word:

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.**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;
look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

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**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.
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.

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Brief silence

God of Life, Creator of all things, we thank you for all of the gifts you have given us. This beautiful world, our homes, warmth, food, lives of meaning, and relationships that bring us joy and hope. All of these are gifts from You. Even in this time of pandemic, we thank you Lord! We thank you for the vaccines and all of the care providers and front-line workers. And, chiefly, we thank you for the life of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, who gave that life for us, and gives us the strength to follow His example. Hear us O God,
your mercy is great.

Gracious God, we give thanks that you see us and know our needs. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Bob & Phyllis; Bob & Julie; Evan (Ryan, Reagan & Maxwell); Peggy; Richard & Anne (Luke & Olivia). We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us O God,
your mercy is great.

Source of all comfort, we are aware that many are in pain this day. There are those who suffer from physical and mental illness, emotional turmoil, and broken relationships. There are also those who mourn the death of loved ones.

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

- Jack, brother-in-law of Bill who died on 3/1
- Richard, uncle of Bob who died on 2/28

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Charles, father of Terri, who is undergoing cancer treatment
- Carolyn, now receiving care at Crest Manor
- Ada, friend of Mike, who is healing following a broken neck
- Lois, aunt of Christine, who is recovering from a fall
- Iona, recovering from a recent fall
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis as she begins dialysis and seeks a kidney donor
- 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
 - Elaine, step-grandmother of Christine

We also remember those we lift before you, silently and aloud, and those affected by the coronavirus and their caregivers. May Your healing presence touch their lives, and the lives of all those in need of Your comfort and care. Hear us O God,
your mercy is great.

Loving God, We pray for the leadership of our church, and ask that you continue your Spirit's presence in their lives. We ask Your blessings on Pastor Amy and Pastor Hoffman this morning, that they may feel your presence with them, know You are always with them, and clearly see the ministry You are calling them to. Hear us O God,
your mercy is great.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL

The Peace:

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord 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.

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:

You Do Not Walk Alone

Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, Director)

Elaine Hagenberg

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Gracious God,

in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer:

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Out of your great love for the world, you sent your Son, Jesus, not to condemn, but to save,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life, born again from above by water and the Spirit.

Words of Institution:

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.

Out of your great love for the world, you sent your Son, Jesus, that we might see your love made real.

In this meal, teach us to show love for the sake of our neighbors; and by your Spirit, make us one with Christ and one with your church in all the world. Amen

The Lord's Prayer:

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

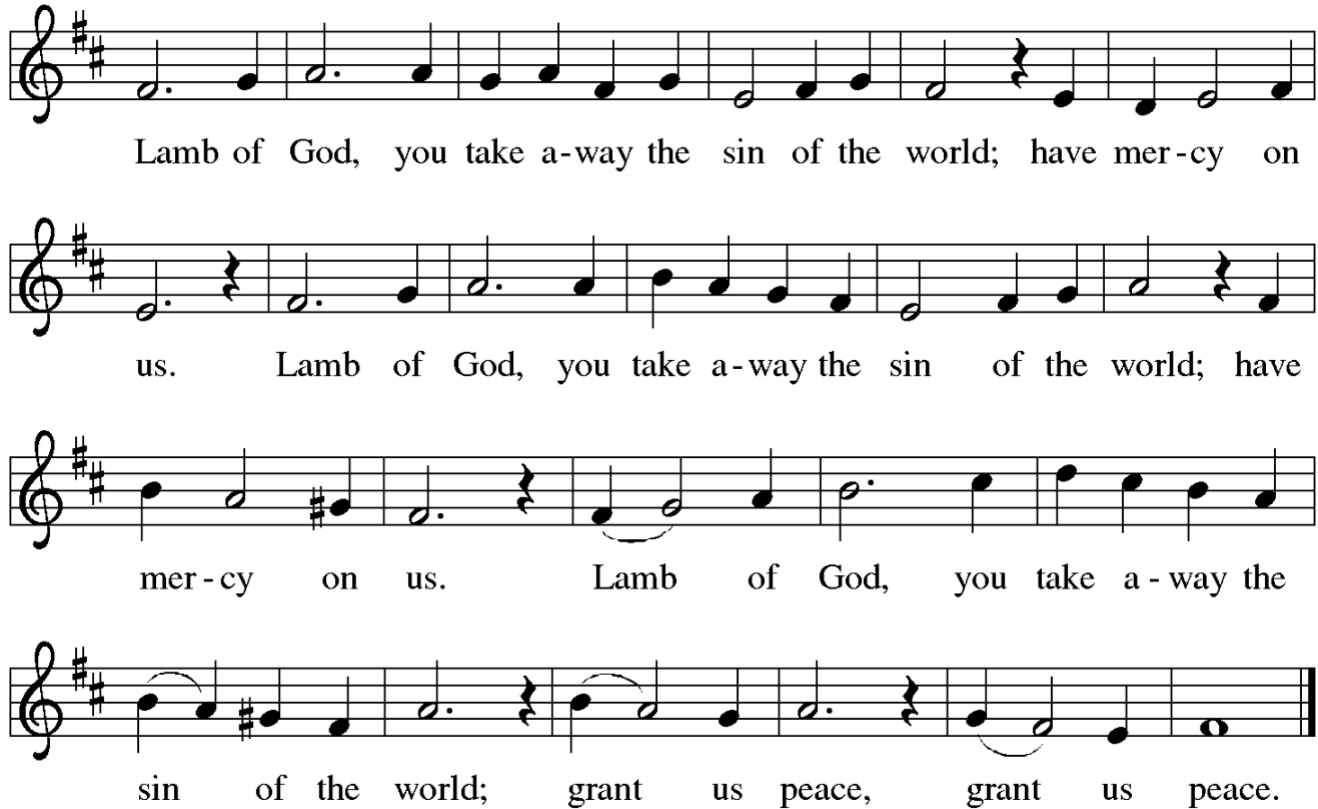
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion:

God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

Thanks be to God!

The Communion:



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

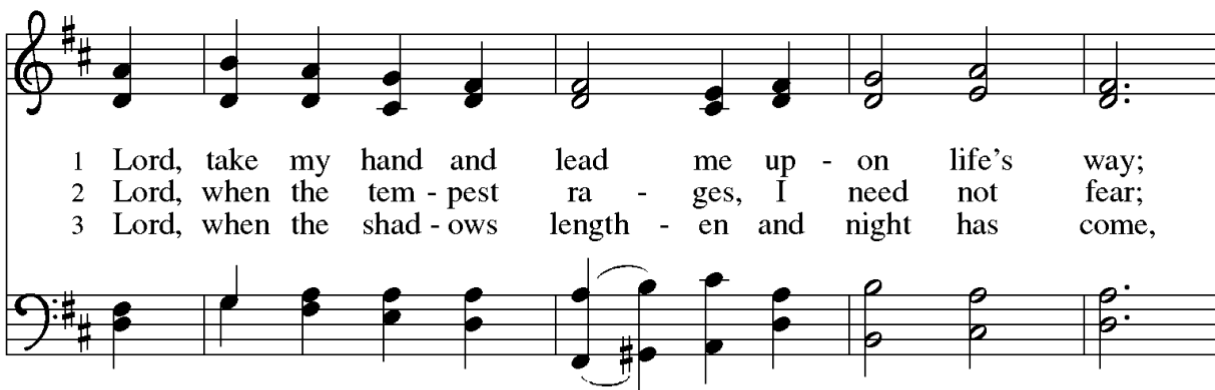
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion:

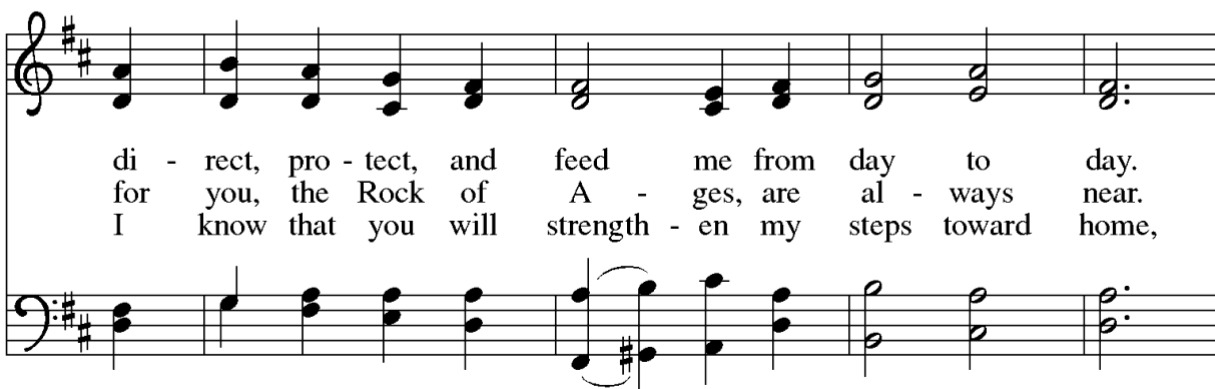
If you will not be communing at Bethlehem today, we encourage you to speak the words of Blessing at the end of today's service.

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.



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,



di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
 for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
 I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
 Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
 then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!



so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
 for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
 So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

Benediction:

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen

Calendar for week of March 7 – March 14

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

Sunday, March 7

Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Facebook Livestream
Worship followed by Holy Communion – the sanctuary will be open for people to receive communion until 11 am
No book/Bible study today
12:30 pm Zoom* Joint Council/CMT Session
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, March 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, March 9

BLC Office Closed**

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

Wednesday, March 10

BLC Office Closed**

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
10:00 am Zoom* Liturgy Planning Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
5:45 pm Zoom* M&SC Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 810 4880 8961)
7:00 pm Zoom* Wednesdays in Lent - Created for Community Worship Series
([Join](#) or use ID 837 4022 0666)
8:00 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, March 11

Friday, March 12

Pastor's Sabbath

No Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group Rehearsal

Saturday, March 13

9:15 am Property Committee
11:00 am – 12 pm Pickup Holy Week Bags at the District Lot

Sunday, March 14

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time Begins

8:30 am Facebook Livestream Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Book/Bible Study
([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 Tuesday, March 9 & Wednesday, March 10. Pastor Amy remains available both days 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.**

*Today's reflection (as shared in the weekly STAR) is taken from the **BLC Lenten Devotional** shared in Quarterly Mailer. If you did not receive a Quarterly Mailer in the mail or you would like additional paper copies of the devotional, please contact the church office. Consider reflecting each day during the season of Lent on one of the writings shared.*

(Jesus) was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. - Mark 1:13

Idle or Idol?

My wilderness journey began 3 ½ years before the pandemic. In my retirement I experienced several unknowns: Who am I without my profession defining me? What is God calling me to do that offers meaning? Who will accompany me beyond my family, as now I have left the community I knew so well? Who are friends I can count on being with me beside Pat and Vanna and Alex each night?

2020's pandemic only highlighted the need for connections. Facebook and sports on TV are poor substitutes for face-to-face dialog. Barbra Streisand was correct when she lamented, "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world."

The faith community at BLC has been a source of new hope and inspiration. Together we affirm our baptismal calling to hear and proclaim God's Word, and strive for justice and peace. Each night I thank God for the day I have been given, and pray for help to follow the calling God has yet for me.

Jeff Hedin

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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