



Sunday, May 16, 2021 ~ 7th Sunday of Easter/Music Sunday
“Soli Deo Gloria” – To God alone the Glory! The great Lutheran church composer, Johann Sebastian Bach, was said to have written these words on every composition, a reminder that all our music is a gift of God who gives us life and breath and song! At Bethlehem, we have been abundantly blessed throughout the last year, by musicians who have continued to find creative ways to share their musical gifts and tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love! On this Music Sunday, we join our voices in the ways available to us to give voice to our prayers and offer our songs of hope and praise! Soli Deo Gloria!

Welcome!

We are so glad to have you share in worship at Bethlehem today. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the Pastors – they would love to greet you personally!

Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship. We have designated space within the sanctuary (underneath the window of Jesus, the Good Shepherd) that is reserved for families who may need additional space for strollers or carriers for children who cannot yet wear masks. We ask you to attend to distancing. If there is a way we can make worship a more hospitable environment for your family, please speak to a pastor or leave a comment through our website (see above).

Hearing assistance: Our sound system is equipped with personal hearing loop devices. Please ask an usher for a loop device.

Holy Communion is important to our life of faith. At this time, we receive communion on the first Sunday of the month.

Our Perrin Street entrance is accessible. Please ask for help if you need assistance.

Please silence your cell phones: As a courtesy to others, we ask that you please silence your cell phones during worship.

Make reservations to attend worship and learn more about how to view livestreamed worship at <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/>. If you need assistance making a reservation or don't have internet access, please contact the church office.

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

LITANY OF PRAISE – Psalm 150

Hallelujah! Praise God in the holy temple;

praise God in the mighty firmament.

Praise God for mighty acts;

praise God for exceeding greatness.

Praise God with trumpet sound;

praise God with lyre and harp.

Praise God with tambourine and dance;

praise God with strings and pipe.

Praise God with resounding cymbals;

praise God with loud clanging cymbals.

Let everything that has life and breath

praise the LORD. Hallelujah!

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,
or text the peace of Christ to those who are at a distance.*

Hymn of Praise:	Come, Christians, Join to Sing arr. Benjamin Carr/Mark Patterson <i>Youth Choir (Director, Annette Finkbeiner; Susan DePasquale, piano)</i>
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WE WORSHIP GOD:

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. Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Psalm Hymn:

#879

"For The Beauty Of The Earth"

Conrad Kocker - music and Folliott S. Pierpoint – Lyrics;

Arranged by Rich Towsley for the Dulcimers.

BLC Dulcimer Group (Director, Rich Towsley)

Reading: Romans 15:1-7, 13

Paul commends the faithful in Rome to extend love to one another in order to make Christ's joy, peace, and hope visible through their unity.

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. ³For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ¹³May 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 17:11b-19

In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I

am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Musical Message:

How Can I Keep from Singing
Chancel Choir (Director, Jim Jefferis)

Gwyneth Walker

The Apostles’ Creed:

With the whole church, let us 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 of Music:

"My Lord, What a Morning"

An African American Spiritual
Arranged by Rich Towsley

BLC Folk Group (Director, Rich Towsley)

Offering

Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. We celebrate the opportunity to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. 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. Those worshipping in person may leave their offerings in the basket in the narthex.



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

Offering of Music:	Abound in Hope	Mark Hayes
<i>Chancel Choir (Director, Jim Jefferis; Dick DePasquale, trumpet)</i>		

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God of love,

you call us beloved children and welcome us always. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. 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.

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Brief silence

Our congregation thanks and praises you for the triumph of Christ our Savior. Grant us grace to live in accordance with his commands; to proclaim him as Lord and King; and to share his forgiveness and grace with those who need them most. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Ease the suffering of all who are persecuted for naming Jesus as Lord. Give gentleness to their words and peace in their hearts. Bring to repentance and humble faith all who torment them. Hear us, O God:

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Your Son has ascended on high, and is king of all nations. We pray for the earthly leaders of those nations, especially our own. Make them righteous and merciful, and conform them to your will. Teach all people to live together in peace and unity, until the day Christ comes to judge the living and the dead. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks that you see us and know our needs. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Donna & Jim, Danielle (Niyen & Zenobia), Adam & Lisa (Jakob, Miah & Noah), Matt & Vicki, Ryan, Karen. We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

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

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- Annette as she departs from her role as Director of Handbell and Children's Choirs Bethlehem

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

- Robert (friend of Bob & Julie's son, David)

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Cathy who remains hospitalized following emergency surgery
- Marilyn as she recovers from anticipated surgery on 5/12
- Bob and Judy as Bob transitions to his new home at St. John's Green Houses 5/6
- Tim (husband of Linda) who is recovering from recent surgery
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis as she seeks a kidney donor
- 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

Hear also these prayers we raise to you in our hearts either silently or aloud...

Long silence

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; 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:

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

Sending Hymn:	Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven	arr. Karen Buckwalter
<i>Chancel Bells and Chancel Choir (Directors Annette Finkbeiner & Jim Jefferis)</i>		

Dismissal:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Voluntary on "Hymn to Joy" (ELW #836)

Michael Burkhardt

Calendar for week of May 16 – May 23

(Last updated on 5/12/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, May 16

Music Sunday

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
10:00 am In-person Worship
([Reservation required](#))
7:30 pm LYO

Monday, May 17

6:30 pm BSA Troop 208
7:00 pm Investment in Ministries
([Join](#) or use ID 832 8521 8973)

Tuesday, May 18

Wednesday, May 19

BLC Office Closed **

9:30 am Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942*)
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)

Thursday, May 20

BLC Office Closed **

6:30 pm Church Council
([Join](#) or use ID 856 5035 0877)

Friday, May 21

Pastor's Sabbath

3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, May 22

Sunday, May 23

Pentecost Sunday

Confirmation Sunday

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
10:00 am In-person Worship
([Reservation required](#))
7:30 pm LYO

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office during office hours (9am - 12 noon) on Wednesday, May 19 & Thursday, May 20. Messages will be checked in the afternoon. Pastor Amy remains available 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.

Worshiping In-Person: To accommodate our sanctuary capacity limits, we are currently requiring reservations for worship. You may [reserve space here](#) (the link is also available on BLC's [Share in Worship page](#)). If you need assistance making a reservation or don't have internet access, please contact the church office.

***Zoom Meetings at BLC:** The easiest way to join is to use the direct link available in the [Calendar of Events](#) on our website. If you don't see your meeting in the Calendar of Events or have questions, please contact your group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details!

Reflection: Music is Personal and Universal

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton shared this reflection in the May issue of Living Lutheran. A portion is excerpted here, the entire article can be [read online](#).

I had a friend in high school who said, “Wouldn’t it be great if our lives had a soundtrack and we could hear it?” That way we would always know what was coming at us. Suspenseful music, ominous music, joyful music, sorrowful music, heroic music—all would alert us to what is just around the corner and would accompany us on our way. There is something intriguing about the idea. And it could work if your soundtrack were the only one and everyone and everything else were just the supporting cast in your musical.

But God didn’t create us that way. We aren’t solitary lives played out on an isolated stage. God created us by love and for love. We were meant to be together. The Trinity is relationship and God welcomes us into that holy company.

Like God’s love, music is at the same time deeply personal, sounding deep within an individual’s soul, and universal, ringing out to an entire community. Like God’s love, music sings to us in all of our marvelous diversity. Just as the beauty of creation is apparent not in monochrome but in Technicolor, so also must music be polyphonic. This is why we have a variety of worship resources that include a variety of musical styles from many cultures and in many languages.

One of the great harms done by Western missionaries was to equate proper, acceptable and God-pleasing worship with Western music, dress and even instrumentation. The problem wasn’t the introduction of their music. The problem was the replacement of Indigenous expression with Western music and the labeling of Indigenous music, language, dance and dress as pagan and worse. ...

Martin Luther, a musician and hymn writer, wanted his people to hear the universal message of the gospel in their own language. We Lutherans take a great deal of pride in Luther’s translation of the Bible into the vernacular. How is it that we are not so ready to hear the gospel in the musical vernacular of the thousand tongues that sing our great Redeemer’s praise? Music, in all its many forms, sings for us even when we can’t find the words. I like to think that, when the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words, the Spirit is singing and, in that distant melody, just beyond our comprehension, our longing and God’s love meet.

My life flows on in endless song; above earth’s lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? ([ELW, 763](#))

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

United States of America.