



Sunday, May 30, 2021 ~

1st Sunday after Pentecost/Holy Trinity Sunday

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

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

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

At home: create a focal point for worship in your home. A green plant calls to mind the color of the Sundays after Pentecost and serves as a reminder of growth and maturing in our life of faith, a frequent focus of the gospel texts during this season.

In-person: you are encouraged to participate through your spoken voice in today’s liturgy. In lieu of singing hymns and liturgical music, you are encouraged to use the music texts as part of your prayer and reflection throughout the week, or join in singing them from home by viewing a recording of today’s livestream.

Call to Worship:

In the beginning

before time, before people, before the world began, God was.

Here and now

among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven, God is.

In the future,

when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfilment, God will be.

Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

God was. God is. God will be!

Gathering Hymn: (8:30 am)	Come, All You People	#819
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(Music on the following page)

U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
 1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
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u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
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 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.

Music: UYAIMOSE, Alexander Gondo

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(Tune & Shona: Alexander Gondo, Zimbabwe. Transcription & English paraphrase: I-to Loh © 1986, World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music.)

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. God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Children’s Moment (8:30 am)

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Reading: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (8:30 am)

The image shows a musical score for the Gospel Acclamation 'Al-le - lu - ia'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is written in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

The gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Silent reflection



1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
 2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
 3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
 4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter - weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
 then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.
 set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.
 we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,
 The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;
 We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
 Let voic - es rise and in - ter - weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.
 when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.
 go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!
 to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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Response to the Word

Blessed are they whose way is blameless,
Who follow the teaching of the Lord!

United with believers across space and time, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace. At home, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

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 Tithely 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:

Chorale Prelude on “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Max Reger

Organist

Offertory: (8:30)

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

#182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God of love,

the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things that we may come to the help of all in need, though Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

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.

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

As warmer weather and a decrease in coronavirus restrictions opens up our world, let us rejoice in the rebirth of family gatherings, community meetings, church services and renewed in-person friendships. Help us strengthen our connections to those around us. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Even as the winter fades, many people around the world and in our own town still face hunger and food shortages. Help us to open our cupboards and share the bounty that we enjoy with those who are still struggling. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks that you see each and every one of us and know our needs. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families; Brian, Mary Jane, Kim, and Jared, Don, Sue and Tor, Jeffrey, Kelly, Grace and Madison, David, Patty and Michael and Nathan. We also pray for our companion synods and the churches in Zimbabwe and Zambia, especially our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. We pray for God's blessing and grace to abound in the ministry of these sister churches. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Compassionate Father, we ask for your loving arms to embrace those who are in need.

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

- Susan (longtime friend of Ruth & Jeff) who died following a long battle with cancer

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Pastor Amy who is recuperating from knee replacement surgery on 5/26
- Waverly, who continues to face multiple health challenges
- 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

And those that we name aloud or in our hearts. Be with them and their loved ones as they face challenges ahead.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Benediction:

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Dismissal:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Postlude on “Father Most Holy”

John Eggert

You will be excused during the postlude from the back of the congregation to the front. You are encouraged to share conversation outside the building!

Thank you to Pastor David Gerhardt... *for proclaiming God’s Word and providing Sunday morning worship leadership while Pastor Amy is recovering from her recent surgery. Pastor Gerhardt is a retired ELCA Pastor and member of this congregation. We are grateful for his witness among us!*

Pastor Hoffman is coordinating pastoral care and providing ministry support during Pastor Amy’s absence. In the event of a pastoral care emergency (i.e. death, family or individual crisis), please contact the church office and leave a message on the Pastoral Care line.

Calendar for May 30 – June 6

Sunday, May 30

Holy Trinity Sunday

Companion Synod Sunday

8:30 am Facebook

Livestream Worship

10:00 am In-person Worship

([Reservation required](#))

No LYO today!

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day Holiday

BLC Office Closed

Tuesday, June 1

Wednesday, June 2

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, June 3

BLC Office Closed **

7:00 pm Quilts for Lutheran

World Relief

Friday, June 4

Synod Assembly

3:00 pm Dulcimer Group

Rehearsal

Saturday, June 5

Synod Assembly

10:00 am Gardening/Planting

Day at BLC

Sunday, June 6

Communion Sunday

8:30 am Facebook

Livestream Worship

10:00 am In-person Worship

([Reservation required](#))

11:00 – 11:30 am – the sanctuary will be open for Livestream worshipers to receive communion

2:00 pm *BLC on the Go!*

Letterboxing with the Berners at Harris Hill Park

3:00 pm Senior Voice Recital for Paul O'Malley (invitation only)

7:30 pm LYO

***Pr. Amy will be on medical leave** to recuperate from knee replacement surgery from May 26 – June 8. She hopes to work a reduced schedule beginning June 9. Pastor Hoffman will coordinate pastoral care and provide ministry support during Pastor Amy's absence. In the event of a pastoral care emergency (i.e. death, family or individual crisis), please contact the church office and leave a message on the Pastoral Care line.

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office for planned time away** on Thursday, May 27, Friday, May 28 and Thursday, June 3. **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.

Worshipping 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!

Our Amazing Life through Fearsome Death

Holy. Glory. These words in the first reading and psalm testify to awe at God's transcendent sovereignty, fearsome majesty, and infinite mystery. No mortal can see God's face or hear God's voice and live. The fear expressed in these readings is *personal*—a living mortal in awe of the living God. In our age, awe at transcendent mystery tends toward the *impersonal*—at the invisibly small (in physics, quarks and strings) and the unimaginably large (space and time). Does anyone in our age still cultivate the fear of an unmanageable transcendent God, or is the notion too connected to images of a heavenly bully to be useful? Besides, Paul and Jesus each offer a picture of God's immanence. Paul invites us to revel in God's approachability, affirming that we can cry, "Abba! Father!" Jesus proclaims the most famous Bible verse of all, telling of God's great love and desire to save.

But both Jesus and Paul testify that any presumption of easy friendship and comfortable intimacy with the triune God is as out of place now as ever. The immanent God is still the transcendent God! And it is still true: no mortal can see God's face or hear God's voice and live—even if the face and voice belong to Jesus through the Holy Spirit. The life God desires for us is accomplished through Jesus' death—and through our own through baptism. Those deaths are as utterly terrifying as death always is, but with this grace: the death leads to our holy birth from above into a life where "we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him" (Rom. 8:17).

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The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors