



*Sunday, August 15, 2021*

*“Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long and how deep his love is.”*

*Ephesians 3:17b-18 (NLT)*

# 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!

**Today's service will be recorded and live-streamed.** By participating in this service, you automatically consent to such recordings. Our camera operators take care to focus on worship leaders and not participants, but there may be times you are visible. Please speak with a pastor following worship if you have concerns.

**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.

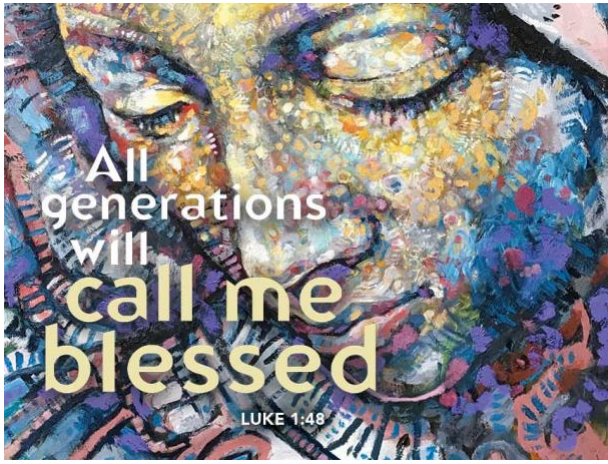
**Children are welcome and encouraged** to participate in worship. We have designated space within the sanctuary (underneath the window of Jesus, the Good Shepherd) that is reserved for families who may need additional space for strollers or carriers for children who cannot yet wear masks. We ask you 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:** All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with one of our Pastors.) Please see additional notes about the Sacrament in the service portion of the bulletin.

**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.



**Sunday, August 15, 2021**

***Mary, Mother of Our Lord***

*Mary's role is not limited to giving birth to Jesus and mothering him in his childhood. In John's gospel, she is among the women standing near the cross; in Acts, she is among the disciples awaiting the gift of the Spirit. Through all that happened she continued to see how God was at work through her son, keeping the ancient promises to her ancestors, brushing aside the rich and powerful, and focusing on those as poor and powerless as Mary herself.*

Prelude:	Prelude on "Thaxted"	(ELW #880)	Robert Buckley Farlee
	Prelude on "Jerusalem"	(ELW #711)	C. Hubert Parry/arr. James Welch

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

## **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*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: we encourage your participation in spoken and sung liturgy while remaining masked.*

Call to Worship:

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

**God's faithfulness endures from generation to generation.**

Lord, in your great faithfulness

**send our roots deep that we may continue to grow as we share Christ's love.**

Lord, in your great faithfulness

**form us into people who embody justice and compassion, grace and mercy.**

Lord, in your great faithfulness strengthen us and the work we do in your name.

**Through your power help us witness how wide, how long, how high, and how deep is the love of Christ, our Lord.**



1 Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.  
 1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.  
 4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.  
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¡Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!  
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Spanish and English  
 Music: CANTAD AL SEÑOR, Brazilian folk tune  
 Spanish and English text © Gerhard Cartford, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, 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**

### **Reading: Galatians 4:4-7**

*In the promise of the Incarnation, Jesus Christ embodies God's mother-father heart, in love claiming people as adopted children.*

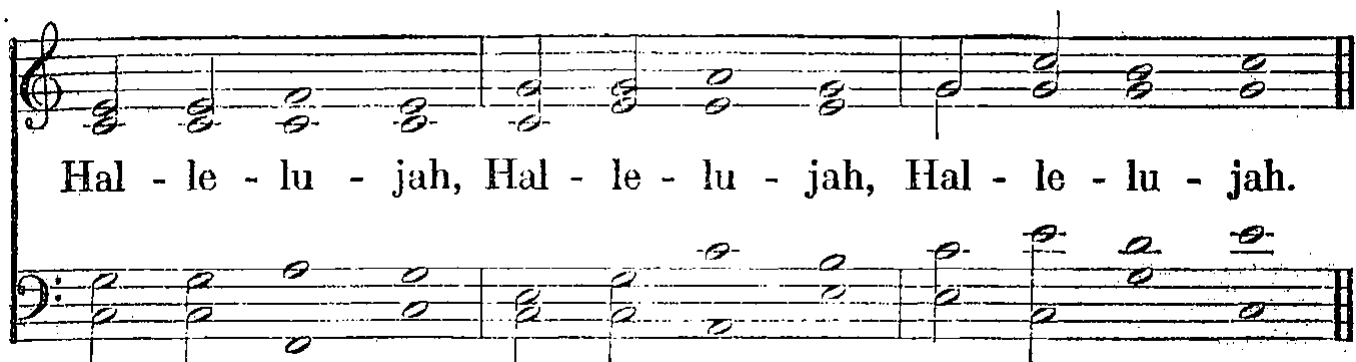
<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

### **The Hallelujah**



The gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Luke 1:39-55**

*Mary's song, the Magnificat, serves as a thematic anthem for God's work in the world and therefore for the ministry of her son, Jesus. In Mary's praise we hear of a saving God who remembers the humble, scatters the proud, lifts up the lowly, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's

greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -  
3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace.  
ty and time,  
com - ing Christ,

Ev - er - lov - ing      and      sus - tain -  
Mar - y learned that      she would car -  
to em - bod - y      God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em-brace.  
ry both the mor-tal and di-vine.  
sion for each frag-ile hu-man life.

If we fal - ter  
Then she learned of  
God is with us



in our cour - age  
God's com - pas - sion,  
in our long - ing

and we doubt what we have known, God is  
of E - liz - a-beth's great joy, and she  
to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful      to    con-sole    us  
ran      to    greet    the wom - an  
watch with    joy    and won - der

as a moth - er tends her own.  
who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984

Text © 2002 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

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Response to the Word:

United with believers across space and time, 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.**

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 Prayers of the People:

*In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those  
whose needs are known to us listed below.*

Let us come before the triune God in prayer

*Brief silence*



Dear God, we are thankful for the beginning of our much anticipated celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We thank all those working to make this a blessed time to fuel our growth in Christ. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We ask you God to guide and bless the combined effort of our Missions and Social Concerns group and Moll Farms, Williamson, NY as they provide fresh fruit and vegetables for those in need. Bless this community service to our neighbors. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Mighty Lord, bless our members who live their faith by quilt tying for Lutheran World Relief. We pray this ministry will benefit the poor, the sick, the lost. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks that you see us and know our needs. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Ed & Sharon, Jimmy & Laura, Paige, Ryan Betty, Jeff & Ruth, Pam. And we pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose needs are known to us, especially:

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

- Willard (father of Kay) who died on 8/1
- Dottie (mother of John who is Kathy's brother-in-law) who died on 7/20/21
- Darrell who died on 7/26
- Helen (sister of Pr. Richard) who died on 7/24
- Kenneth (brother-in-law of Pr. Richard) who died on 7/23

*We pray for those who experiencing transitions:*

- Suzanne, TJ, Natalie, Bethany and Trace as they move to Kazakhstan this week (they left by plane on 8/1). TJ is in the military.

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

- Waverly as she is hospitalized following surgery on her foot on 8/10
- Celia who was recently diagnosed with cancer
- George (brother-in-law of Margie and Mark) who is hospitalized recovering from an infection
- Barbara (dear friend of Kathy) who was just diagnosed with breast cancer and will begin chemotherapy this month
- Erica (daughter of Mary's friend) who has just been diagnosed with Systemic Lupus

- Daniel who is recovering from spinal surgery on 8/10
- Carrie who is recovering from surgery following a cancer diagnosis
- Joan (first wife of Bob) who is recovering from a fall
- Erin (daughter of Kathy & Joe) as she recovers from spinal surgery and emergency abdominal surgery
- Anne as she recovers from a bike accident
- 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 we name aloud or silently before you....

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.  
**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 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:  
 Minuet in G Minor

J. S. Bach/arr. Bernard Dewagtere  
*Olivia Finkbeiner, French horn*



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

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### Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

**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.**

### 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.  
Gracious God, out of your great love, you sent Jesus to be our bread.  
**Lord, give us this bread always.**  
By your Spirit, fill us and this meal with your presence,  
**and strengthen us to be your body in the world. 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**

Invitation to Communion:  
Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come and be fed!  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Distribution of Communion:*

*Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please contact one of the Pastors.) Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the pastor or communion assistant. You may lower your mask as you receive communion. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.*

# 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

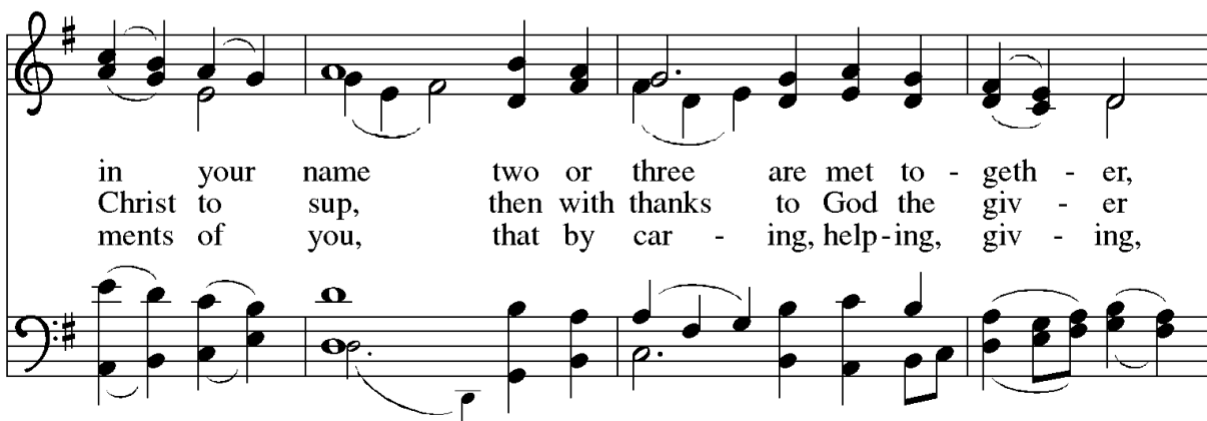


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly  
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,  
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er  
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition. © Oxford University Press 1931.

Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

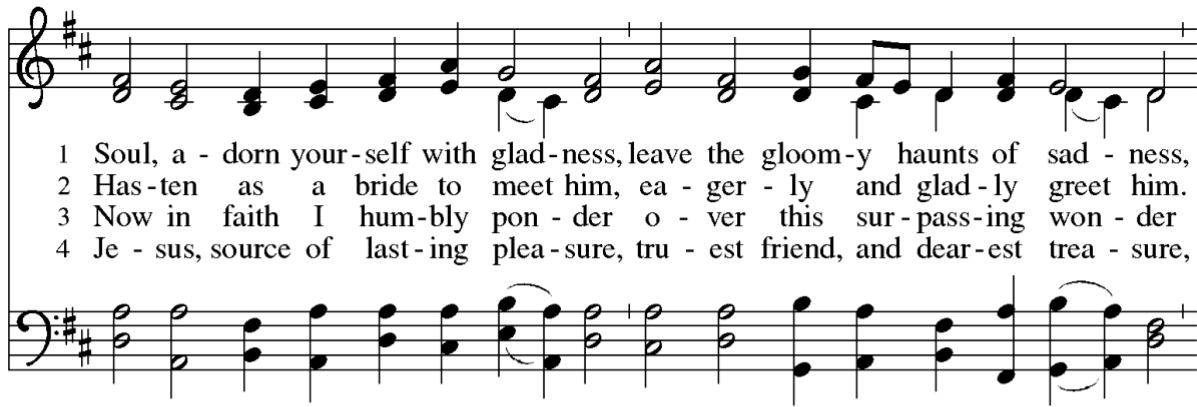
1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,  
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,  
3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,  
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;

for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895

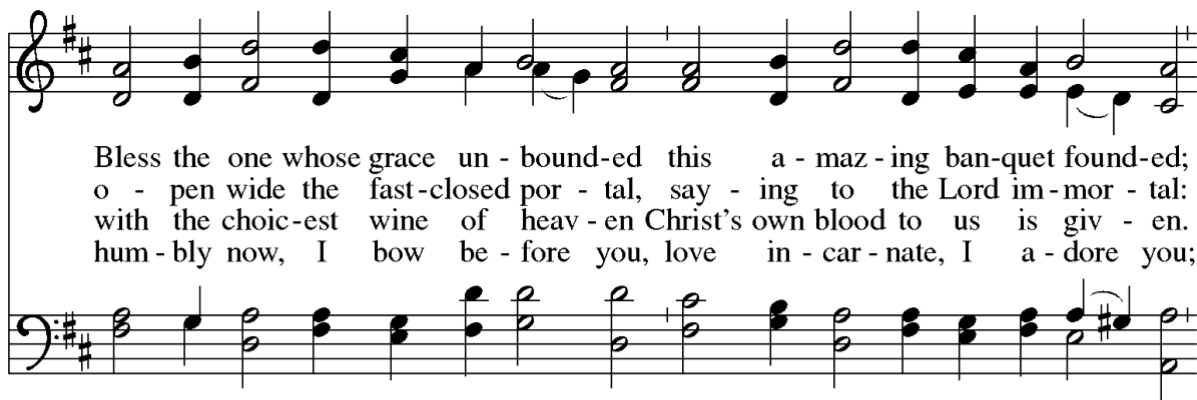
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.




1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad - ness,  
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.  
 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur-pass-ing won - der  
 4 Je - sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru - est friend, and dear-est trea - sure,



come in - to the day-light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.  
 There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un-lock - ing,  
 that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less;  
 peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing;

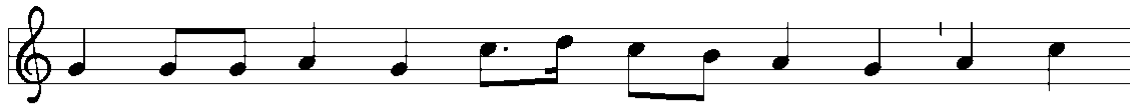


Bless the one whose grace un - bound-ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;  
 o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im-mor - tal:  
 with the choic-est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.  
 hum-bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;



Christ, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for-ev - er."  
 Oh, most glo-rious con-so-la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
 wor - thi - ly let me re-ceive you, and, so fa-vored, nev - er leave you.





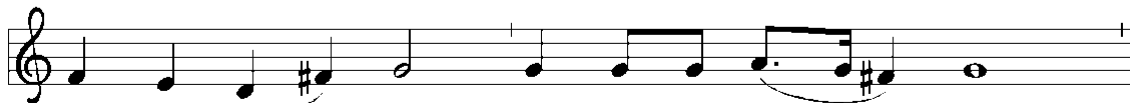
1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a - dore you, in thanks -  
 2 Your ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en, life to  
 3 Lord God, be - stow on us your grace and fa - vor, that we



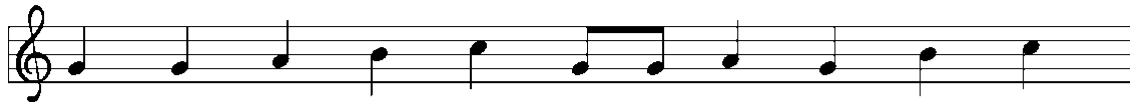
giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your  
 win for us in heav - en. No great - er  
 fol - low Christ our Sav - ior and live to -



bod - y and your blood you nour - ish our weak souls that  
 love than this to you could bind us; may this feast of  
 geth - er here in love and u - nion, nor re - pent this



they may flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 that re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 blest com - mu - nion. O Lord, have mer - cy!



May your bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, that our  
 Lord, your kind - ness so much did move you that your  
 Let not your good Spir - it for - sake us; by this



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, and your blood for us plead  
 blood now moves us to love you. All our debt you have paid;  
 ho - ly ban - quet re - make us. Give your church, Lord, to see



in all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 peace with God once more is made. O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 days of peace and u - ni - ty. O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: German hymn, 15th cent., st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–3; tr. composite  
 Music: GOTT SEI GELOBET UND GEBENEDEIET, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

### Table Blessing:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen**

Benediction:

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

**Amen.**

Sending Hymn:

*O God beyond All Praising*

#880



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown-  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:  
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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Dismissal:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:    Sortie

César Franck

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## Calendar for August 15 – August 22

(Last updated on 8/11/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, August 15

9:30 am Worship with  
Communion with guest Bishop  
John Macholz (in-person  
and livestream) There will be a  
reception following worship!

### Monday, August 16

### Tuesday, August 17

### Wednesday, August 18

9:30 am Bible Study - Hybrid  
(In-person or [Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 943 3691 2942)  
1:00 pm Sunday Morning  
Launch Team  
([Join](#) or use ID 811 5730 4917)  
1:00 pm Men's Lunch at Penfield  
Wegmans

### Thursday, August 19

6:30 pm Church Council  
([Join](#) or use ID 865 5035 0877)  
7:00 pm BLC On the Go! Quilting  
for Lutheran World Relief

### Friday, August 20

***Pastor's Sabbath***

### Saturday, August 21

### Sunday, August 22

9:30 am Worship (in-person  
and livestream)  
12:30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Dinner  
Ministry (delivery only)

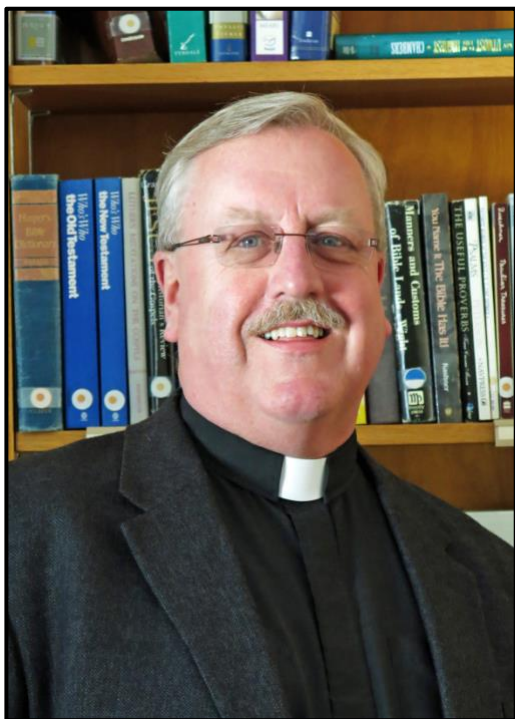
**Church Office Hours:** We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. Our co-Pastor's schedules vary from week to week. Both are available for scheduled appointments.

**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!

**In-Person Meetings at BLC:** To help us schedule and plan for our increased facility use requests, we now require scheduling with this simple form (found at <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>) for each planned meeting, event and activity at BLC. Please complete the form so that we can check for availability, reserve the space, and plan accordingly. If you have any questions, or do not hear back within 3 business days of submitting a form, please call the church office to check on the status of your request.

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## Bishop John Stanley Macholz



Bishop Macholz obtained his Master of Divinity from Christ Seminary-Seminex in St. Louis, MO and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Concordia College in Bronxville, NY. He was ordained into the ministry on November 23, 1980.

Bishop Macholz served his first call as Pastor at Faith, Glenmont from November 1980 to August 1990. He was also Dean of the Hudson Mohawk Conference from the fall of 1988 to the summer of 1990. In August 1990, he accepted a call to Atonement Lutheran Church, Rochester. During this time he also served as the Dean of the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference of the Upstate New York Synod. On September 1, 2014, he was installed as Bishop of UNYS; his term ends August 31, 2021.

Bishop Macholz married Linda Givens Hanna in 1976. She is an equal partner in ministry, a strong supporter, and a helpful critic. They have a son, Zachary, who lives with his wife, Jasmin, and daughter in Germany. Their daughter, Barbara Grimaldi, is deceased.

Bishop Macholz has dabbled in pottery, loves to cook and bake, reads in an attempt to keep up with changes and trends in the church and life, and enjoys writing poetry, among other things. An occasional game of golf also produces time apart and assists him in learning new ways to handle frustrations.



**Rooted. Growing. Sharing.** *Members of the Bethlehem community share their stories as we mark our 100th Anniversary in worship this week.*

Even before the words “Let there be light”, God was making plans. Now, many eons later, these plans seemed of human origin as they came to life in 1921 in Fairport, NY, in the shape of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. But make no mistake, that event was God planting a seed, the Good News of Jesus Christ, as part of the eternal plan to bring forth the fruit of the kingdom of God.

And, like all seeds, once planted, it sent out roots gathering people from the surrounding community along with their hopes and dreams. Finally, a small plant emerged. But what the roots draw in does not determine what kind of plant it is – the seed, the gospel of Jesus, ultimately determines what the plant will become. It is this precious seed that reforms, redeems, and renews all that the roots gather. By God’s grace, everything the roots gather unites to worship, to study, to fellowship, to celebrate, and even to mourn. Miraculously, growth happens. Sometimes in spurts, sometimes in slow agonizing steps. Sometimes the growing plant needs pruning, and sometimes it gets injured. But always, the precious seed thrives.

In God’s good time, this growing plant yields an abundant harvest of lives transformed by the fruit of God’s Spirit – “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Gal. 5:22-23). And, in turn, these new lives blossom in the world as people, programs, and ministries that change and enrich everyone and everything they touch. They make all the world a more fertile place for the roots of the plant to gather still more people with their hopes and dreams; to help them grow as part of this plant and to produce more harvests. And so, the cycle continues – the harvest feeds the roots, the roots fuel the growth, the growth produces another harvest. And it all began with the seed – the Good News of Jesus Christ.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us.” (John 1:1, 14a)

~Dan Juers



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