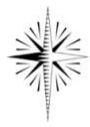




I've been  
meaning  
to ask...

where do we  
go from here?

*Sunday, October 24, 2021*



# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585)

223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)

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

## 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! At this time, we ask all worshipers to wear masks in worship.

**Today's service will be recorded and live-streamed.** Our camera operators take care to focus on worship leaders and don't regularly film worshipers. In the movement of the service, glimpses of people may occur. Please speak with a pastor 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. 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 an usher or greeter for help if you need assistance operating the lift.

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

## Today's Worship Team

We all contribute to worship: lifting our voice in prayer and song, bowing our heads in prayer, opening our ears to hear the Word, and extending our hands to receive the Sacrament. Are you willing to serve in one of these additional roles to contribute to worship this week? Put your name on the sign-up in the narthex and grab the corresponding bulletin so we know the role is filled by you!

**Acolyte:** *Lights the altar candles during the prelude and extinguishes altar candles during the final hymn, bringing the light of Christ out into the world! May robe and sit on the chancel or sit within the congregation during worship. All ages who can safely handle fire and reach the candles are welcome to serve!*

**Glass Washer:** *Washes communion glasses either immediately following worship or after Faith Formation for All. Instructions are posted in the sacristy. Many hands make light work so grab a friend to help! (This is also a great opportunity for a household to serve together!)*

**Offering:** *Sit in the congregation and bring the offering trays from the entrance of the sanctuary forward to the altar during the offertory, giving our congregation's gifts to the glory of God! Pair up with a child if you'd like, so they can have a hands-on role in worship!*

**Communion Assistants (2):** *Sit in the congregation and come forward at the time of communion (when the congregation begins to sing "Lamb of God") to serve the wine/grape juice for communion. Must be able to hold a tray steady and speak the words, "Blood of Christ shed for you!"*

**Intercessory Prayer Readers (3):** *From your seat, speak the highlighted petition as part of the intercessory prayers on behalf of the congregation.*

Thank you also to those serving as Assisting Minister, leading the Children's Sermon, providing Special Music, and serving on Altar Guild, Bread Guild, Wine Guild, Hospitality Team (Usher, Greeter and Fellowship Hosts) and Livestream Team! For more information about any of these roles or to sign up to serve, please contact Beth in the church office or one of the Pastors.

*Thank you for your participation and your overflowing grace and encouragement to one another as we work together to bring worship to life each week!*

## Sunday, October 24, 2021 ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude:

Canzone in G minor

Girolamo Frescobaldi

Prelude on *THE SOLID ROCK*

R. S. Clare

*I've been meaning to ask...where do we go from here? While stepping into the next chapter, our hope is that we keep cultivating curiosity, asking questions, having conversations, and seeking connection in order to humanize and care for each other. Ultimately, this final question invites us to foster hope and imagination. After the loss of loved ones disrupts their lives, Ruth and Naomi create a new covenant with each other, choosing to be in a relationship across their religious, cultural, and generational divides.*

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Worship:

If you come into this place with the hope of growing deeper, with the hope of connecting, with the hope of glimpsing God, and if all of those things take place, and your spirit is moved, and you swear God is near, and you feel more than lucky for the gift of faith, and then the service comes to an end, and it's time for you to leave, and you ask yourself, "Where do we go from here?"

Then I would say to you, "Go out into the world to love and to share and to learn, but come back soon, because this is the beginning. This is only the beginning. So come on in. Fill your cup here. Be present here. God is here."

Gathering Hymn:

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

ELW #596

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.**

Let us pray. Jesus, you asked questions as much as you answered them. You never shied away from conversation. You were always sparking curiosity, opening people's minds, and engaging in the art of connection with everyone around you.

As we come to your Word and gather in this company of saints, give us the same curiosity, openness, and connection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

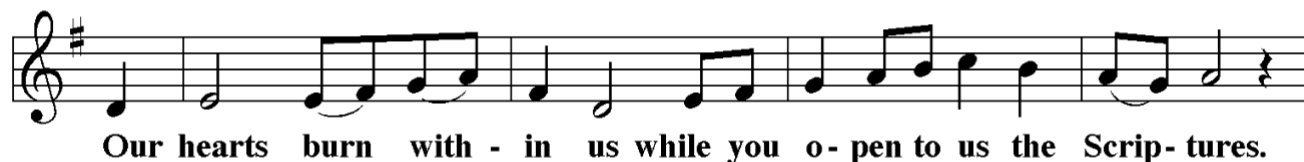
## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Children's Moment

Jim Berner

*Please stand as you are able.*

Scripture Song:



*As part of this worship series, we focus on only one reading from Scripture each week. While the reading does not always come from a Gospel, it is God's holy Word, speaking life and pointing us to the truth.*

### **Reading: Ruth 1:1-22**

A reading from Ruth.

<sup>1</sup>In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and

remained there. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup>Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup>So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup>They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup>would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." <sup>14</sup>Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup>So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup>But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die, I will die — there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

<sup>18</sup>When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. <sup>19</sup>So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" <sup>20</sup>She said to them,

"Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. <sup>21</sup>I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the LORD has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

<sup>22</sup>So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

*Here I Am, Lord*

ELW #574

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.**

The Prayers of the People:

*Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community; our prayers in this service are offered from among the congregation (voices #1-3).*

God of connection, listen to the prayers of your people.

*A brief silence.*

#1 Lord, we pray for commitment. Like Ruth, stir us to go where you go, live where you live, and to hold God, our Father, close to us always. For God goes where we go, lives where we live, and is with us, even when we are not aware. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

#2 We pray that you might place peace on the hearts of kidnappers in Haiti. We pray that conditions that force people to do horrible things may be eliminated by your peace. We pray for all those around our world that are hungry, homeless, oppressed and hopeless. Show them your peace, draw them to you. Ease their afflictions. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

#3 Come to us Lord, slow the reaction time from what we see, to what we say and do. Give us an opportunity to understand what is motivating our fellow human beings to do what they do. Teach us to think. Teach us to be kind. 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: Duncan, Dan, Donna & Ed, Chris & Lisa, Kitty & Ron. We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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:*

- The wedding of Alex and Rachel who were married on 10/16/21
- Taylor & Laura, who were married 10/9. (They are living in Raleigh, NC while Taylor finishes his Pediatric Residency at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
- Kailee is living in Jacksonville, NC and is an Occupational Therapist for the Onslow County School District



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

- Karen as she recovers in VA after being hit by a car while visiting family
- Jerry who has been diagnosed with acute Leukemia and has begun in-patient treatment at RGH
- Sue who is recovering from an emergency appendectomy
- 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 or on our voice. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With confidence that you hear all our prayers – whether spoken or not – we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **WE SHARE GOD’S MEAL:**

The Peace:

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:                      Soon and Very Soon                      arr. Rollo A. Dilworth  
*Chancel Choir (Director, Jim Jefferis)*

Offertory:

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God of abundance,

**you formed us in the dirt, creating us in your image. You gathered us to be your people always. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior 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.

Meet us at this table with open arms and holy conversation  
**So that we might catch a glimpse of you in this meal and be changed. 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:

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Distribution of Communion:*

*Please come forward at the direction of the worship leaders. 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.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948  
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Hymns sung during communion:

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

ELW #659

Spirit of the Living God

W&P #129

(music on the following page, repeat as needed)

F Gm<sup>7</sup>/B<sup>b</sup> D/A Gm F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me,

F Gm<sup>7</sup>/B<sup>b</sup> D/A Gm F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

B<sup>b</sup> F G<sup>7</sup> C F/C C<sup>7</sup>

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

F Gm<sup>7</sup>/B<sup>b</sup> D/A Gm F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

Text and music: Daniel Iversen  
Text and music © 1999 Brethren Music, admin. USM Christian Music Publishing

Table Blessing:

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

**Amen**

## **WE LEAVE TO SERVE:**

Benediction:

The blessing of God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless ☩ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Sending Hymn:	<i>We Are Marching in the Light</i>	ELW #866
	<i>Intro: Robert Stock</i>	
	<i>Bongo drum: Neil E. Vokes</i>	

Stanza 1: choir only      ST 2: We are marching ... (congregation)  
ST 3: We are dancing ...      ST 4: We are praying ...      ST 5: We are singing ...

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Toccata in C major

Johann Pachelbel

**Thank you** to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! If you would like to learn more about participating in a worship role, please speak to one of the co-pastors or contact the church office!

## **Happening today (10/24):**

- 8:55 am Worship with weekly communion! (Livestream or In-person!)
- 10:00 am Fellowship (outside)
- 10:15 am Faith Formation for All!
  - 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade gathers in the Confirmation room
  - 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade gathers in the LYO Room
  - Everyone else gathers in the Fellowship Hall!
- 10:55 am Final Blessing for Everyone (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 am Annual Meeting Forum (Sanctuary or [Join](#) via Zoom – ID 819 4278 7801)

Portions of the liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org  
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## Calendar for October 24 – October 31

(Last updated on 10/20/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, 10/24

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion (in-person  
and livestream)  
10:00 am Fellowship  
10:15 am Faith  
Formation for All  
11:15 am Annual  
Meeting Forum (in-  
person or [Join](#) via  
Zoom – ID 819  
4278 7801)

### Monday, 10/25

### Tuesday, 10/26

10:00 am Liturgy  
Planning Meeting  
2:00 pm Support Group  
for Caregivers  
6:30 pm BSA Troop  
2019 Meeting

### Wednesday, 10/27

9:30 am Bible Study –  
Hybrid (In-person or  
[Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 943 3691 2942)  
5:30 pm Pines of  
Perinton Produce Give  
Away  
6:00 pm Chancel Bells  
6:15 pm Folk Group  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, 10/28

6:30 pm Girl Scout  
Troop Meeting

### Friday, 10/29

*Pastor's Sabbath*  
2:30 pm Dulcimer  
Group Rehearsal

### Saturday, 10/230

### Sunday, 10/31

*Reformation Sunday*  
*(wear red!)*

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion (in-person  
and livestream)  
10:00 am Fellowship  
10:15 Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting (in-person or  
[Join](#) via Zoom – ID  
831 9366 3824)

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Sessions:** The Anniversary Committee will have slots available for you and your family to update your BLC Photo Directory Photos before and after worship. Please contact GerryAnn Westcott if you'd like to volunteer or Bob Stock to sign up!

**Church Office Hours:** We continue to hold remote office hours M, W, Th & 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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# Flashlight

I wish I could draw you a map of the next steps—  
the next conversation,  
the next brave truth,

the next fumble,  
the next apology.  
Wouldn't it be nice to know what's coming?  
Wouldn't it be nice to prepare our hearts?

But I don't know where to go from here. I am a child with a flashlight—  
deeply hopeful and a little nervous,  
all at the very same time.

What I *do* know is I don't want to go anywhere without you.  
So I'm hoping that you will  
take my hand.

See this truth.  
Trust my voice.  
Look for the good.  
And day by day,  
we can go from here,  
because we were never meant to go alone.

And maybe we'll get lost; but then again,  
maybe we'll be found.  
So if you're willing,

if you'll just say yes,  
I will let you hold the flashlight. We can find our way,  
step by step,  
light in hand,  
abolishing shadows  
together.

Who needs a map when you have the light, anyway?