



*Sunday, February 20, 2022
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ 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.

Worship Leaders at BLC

As Lutheran Christians, **we believe that worship is not a passive experience**, watching and listening to the Pastor. **Worship is the work of the people – that's what liturgy means!** We all have a job to do in 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. It also takes many people to support the work of worship, both serving publicly and behind-the-scenes. Each Sunday you're invited to visit the table in the Narthex and put your name next to the role you want and grab the corresponding bulletin.

Want to learn more about a specific worship role or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Fill out the survey on the table and place it in the basket. We will follow up with you.

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Prelude:

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

Lowell Mason

setting by Carlos Staszkeski

Each year, on the Sunday after Epiphany (January 6) we affirm our baptism, celebrating that God has chosen us as beloved children. Each week throughout the season after Epiphany, we are focusing on the responsibilities entrusted to us – as individuals and a community – in response to God’s love for us at baptism. (Review these promises in the hymnal on page 228!) Today, we reflect on what it looks like to share in the Lord’s supper.

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God’s glory revealed in Christ.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Confession and Forgiveness:

We gather in the name of the triune God ✠ and return to our foundation—to words of love, starting with love for ourselves.

We pray together, Holy God,

In Christ Jesus, you lean down and enter our world with your boundless love. But we are quick to forget. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us through your Son. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Family of faith, no matter how old we get, God continues to say to us: “You are loved; you are forgiven.” That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon

which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news:

We are loved. We are ✠ forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

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.

Gloria:

(assisted by The BLC Percussion Ensemble)



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra a-que-llos que a-ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra a-que-llos que a-ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Patty Chaffee

Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' " ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

*;*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*;*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*;*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! *;*A - le - lu - ya!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

(using the tune of *RESTORATION*)

The BLC Dulcimers (Rich Towsley, director)

Commonwealth is God's commandment;
common goods are meant to share.
Tables set and doors wide open
welcome angels unaware.

Chorus:
Plead for the peace of all creation.
Pray for a place where grace is found.
Shanti, pax, shalom, maslaha:
Common good is holy ground.

Sharing lavish gifts and blessings,
love that not one mite withholds,
stretch out arms to friends and strangers:
God has sheep of many folds. *(to Chorus)*

Genders, races, tribes, and nations,
hear the Holy One who calls,
bidding all to work together,
bridging lives and breaching walls. *(to Chorus)*

The Prayers of the People:

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

#1 You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks that in baptism you form us into community. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Don & Vicki, Neil, Art, Jenny, Beth & Rick, and Amy & Hans. We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of grace,
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:

- For those who are formally welcomed to the Lord's table on February 20: Noah, Charlotte, Evan, Vanessa, Grady.

- The birth of Nicole Eloise on 2/7/22. Nicole is the daughter of Andrew and Meredith, little sister of Ryan and granddaughter of Jeff & Ruth.

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

- Julia (friend of Chris) who died on 2/8/22

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Lee who is seeking placement in a hospice facility
- Those involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers

Hear also these prayers we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for people to offer their prayers

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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:

Walk as Children of Light

based on Ephesians 5:8-9
words and music by Terry D. Taylor

The Children's Choir (Raelynn Clare, director)
Karen Bigenwald, pianist

Offertory:

As with Gladness Men of Old

38

DIX. 7 7, 7 7, 7 7 CONRAD KOCHER, 1836

1. As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
3. As they of-fered gifts most rare At that man-ger rude and bare;
As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
So may we, with ho-ly joy, Pure, and free from sin's al-loy,
So, most gra-cious God, may we Ev-er-more be led to Thee.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King. A-men.

William Chatterton Dix, 1860

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe.

You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. 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.

You sent Jesus to love and serve all people.
Sustain us with this meal to follow in his footsteps.

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:

Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

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:

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Hymns sung during communion:
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
Here is Bread

ELW 461
ELW 483

Table Blessing:

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

Amen

Post-Communion Prayer:

Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Sending Hymn:	Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing	ELW 545
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Benediction:

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal:

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Merifield

Janet Correll

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 (2/20):

- 8:55 am Worship with Communion (in-person and livestream)
- 10:15 am Faith Formation for All
 - pre-K to 5th grade gathers in the Sunday School Wing
 - 6th-8th grade gathers with LYO on 2/20 & 2/27
 - 9th-12th grade gathers in the LYO Room
- 10:15 am Sanctuary Conversation: Anniversary Highlight Reel & Poetry reading, in-person and livestream (like Worship, NOT via Zoom)
- 11:15 am Children's Choir (Choir Room)

Portions of the liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org
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Calendar for February 20 – February 27

(Last updated on 2/10/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 2/20

Welcome to the Table

8:55 am Worship with
Communion

(in-person
and livestream)

10:15 am 100th Anniversary
Highlight Reel (in-person
and livestream)

10:15 am Faith

Formation for All

No Children's Choir

Monday, 2/21

Tuesday, 2/22

6:45 pm Re-Opening Team

([Join](#) via Zoom –

ID 858 2295 7341)

Wednesday, 2/23

9:30 am Bible Study –

([Join](#) via Zoom –

ID 943 3691 2942)

6:00 pm Chancel Bells

No Folk Group

No Chancel Choir

Thursday, 2/24

9:30 am Sharing Our

Blessings Team ([Join](#) via

Zoom –

ID 844 5854 9718)

Friday, 2/25

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer

Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 2/26

Sunday, 2/27

8:55 am Worship with

Communion

(in-person

and livestream)

10:15 am 100th Anniversary

Historical Presentation

with John Schmeelk (in-

person and livestream)

10:15 am Faith

Formation for All

11:15 am Children's

Choir

Pastor Hoffman is away February 20 – 27.

Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office February 21- February 25.

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: Submit details at <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/> for each planned meeting, event and activity at BLC. This allows us to check for availability, reserve the space, and plan accordingly. Please contact the church office to confirm or with any questions following your submission.

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

Probably no admonition of Jesus has been more difficult to follow than the command to “love your enemies.” Some men have sincerely felt that its actual practice is not possible. Others, like the philosopher Nietzsche, contend that Jesus’ exhortation to love one’s enemies is testimony to the fact that the Christian ethic is designed for the weak and the cowardly, and not for the strong and courageous. Jesus, they say, was an impractical idealist. But upheaval after upheaval has reminded us that modern man is traveling along a road called hate, in a journey that will bring us to destruction and damnation. Far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer, the command to love one’s enemy is an absolute necessity for our survival. Our responsibility as Christians is to discover the meaning of this command and seek passionately to live it out in our daily lives. —*Martin Luther King Jr.*

Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1963), 47-48.