



*"Create in me a clean heart, O God"*  
*Psalm 51:10*

*Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022*





# 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 welcome you** to this solemn service of worship that begins the season of Lent. Share in worship at 7 pm each Wednesday evening throughout the season (March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; and April 6) 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.

## Wednesday, March 2, 2022 ~ Ash Wednesday

Prelude:

Auf meinen lieben Gott  
(In God, My Faithful God)

Johann Christoph Bach

There Is a Balm in Gilead

*BALM IN GILEAD*  
setting by Charles Callahan

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

*Our worship begins with Psalm 51, a cry for divine forgiveness, appealing to God’s goodness, mercy, and compassion.*

### Psalm: Psalm 51:1-17



- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,**  
**and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- <sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;**  
**so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**
- <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother’s womb.
- <sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,**  
**and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

- <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**
- <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- <sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
- <sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**
- <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day:

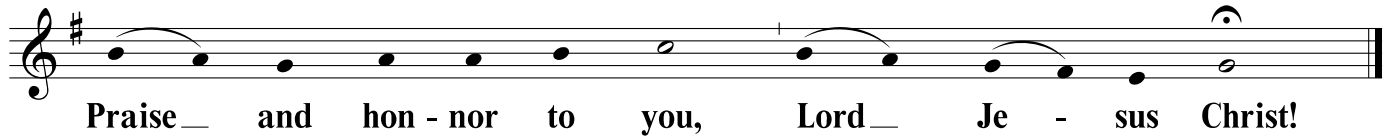
Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### Gospel Acclamation:

#### *REFRAIN*



Refrain: Leader

Refrain: All

Proper Verse: Leader

*Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

Refrain: All

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash

your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

Hymn of the Day:	As the Deer Runs to the River	ELW 331
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Invitation to Lent

Confession of Sin:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

If we say we have no sin,

**we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection*

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:  
**Lord, have mercy on us.**

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:  
**Lord, have mercy on us.**

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:  
**Lord, have mercy on us.**

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Imposition of Ashes:

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*People may come forward to receive the ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

*During this time, please join in singing:*

Hymns:

There Is a Balm in Gilead

ELW 614

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814

The Prayers of the People:

We pray for the world God has made, and for all people according to their needs.



Lord, renew your church in every place for the ministry set before us at this time. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord, renew communities and leaders in the work of justice and reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord, renew those who are weary in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those we name before you . . . Lord, in your mercy.  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord, renew a right spirit within us and fill us with your bountiful spirit in this holy season.  
**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:  
Create in me a clean heart, O God

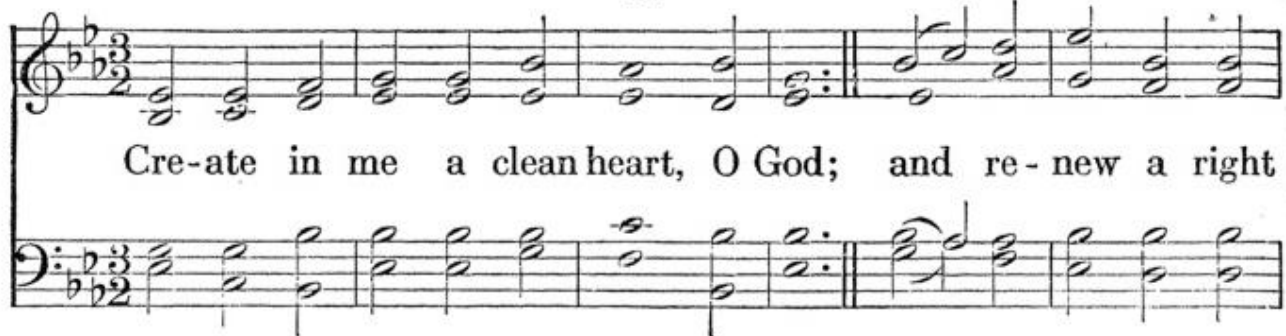
Psalm 51: 10-13  
Carl F. Mueller

The Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, director)

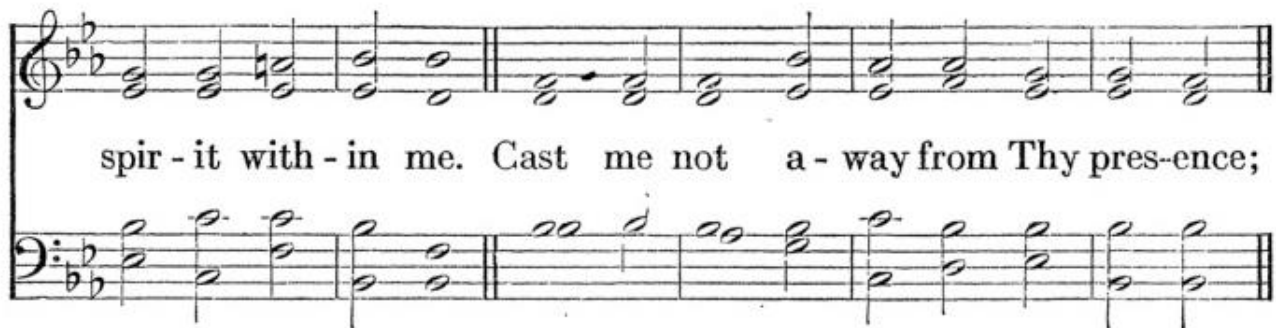
Offertory:	Create in Me a Clean Heart
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Or

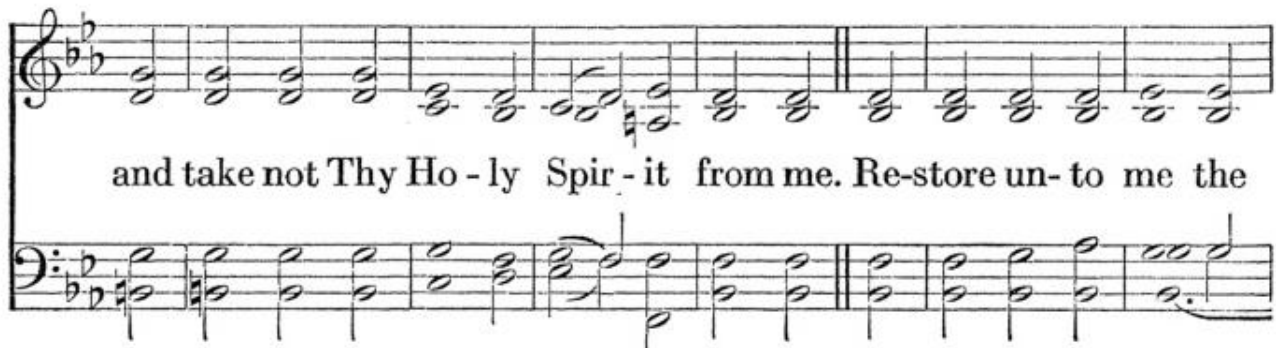
H. R. K. From FREYLINGHAUSEN.



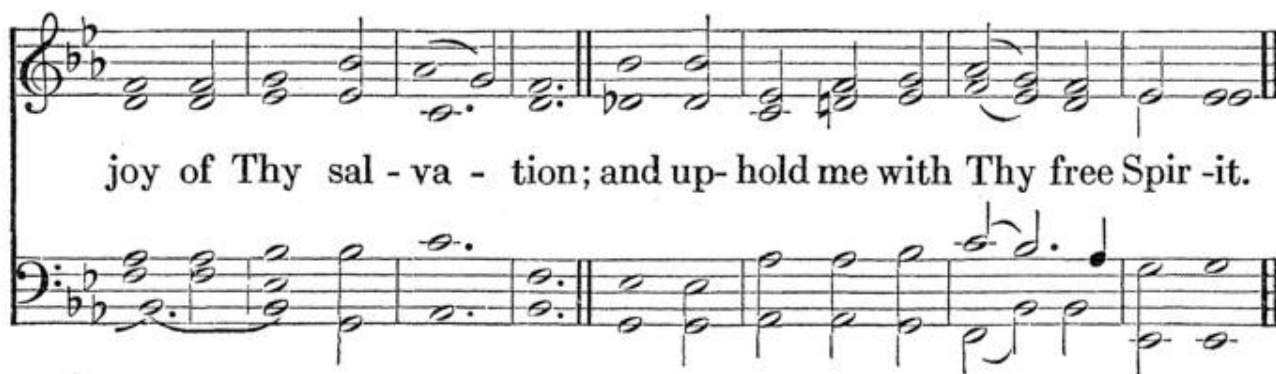
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God; and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres-ence;



and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the



joy of Thy sal - va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Merciful God,

**receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our 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.

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:

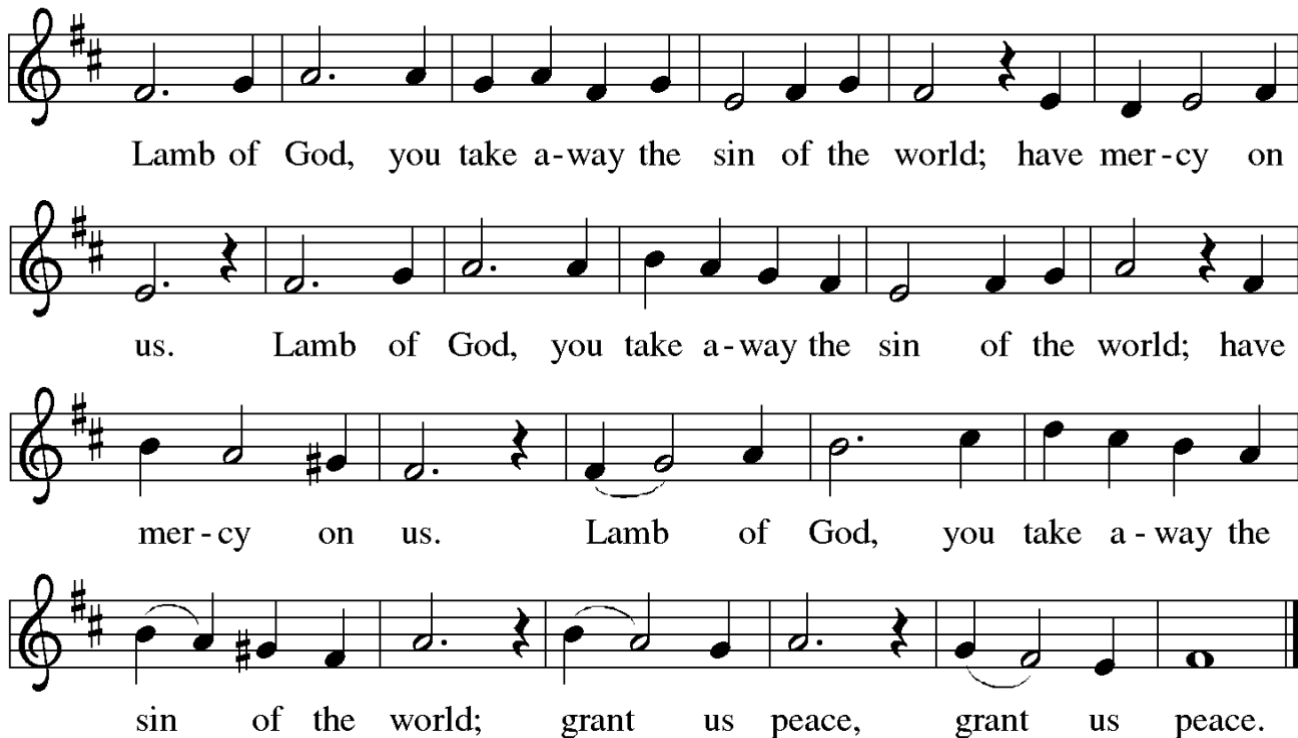
God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

**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.*

## 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.

## Hymns sung during communion:

Once We Sang and Danced

ELW 701

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW 599

## 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:**

Hymn:

Restore in Us, O God

ELW 328

Benediction:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Ach, was sol lich Sünder Machen  
(O How Great Is Thy Compassion)  
Variation IV

Johann Pachelbel

## Calendar for February 27 – March 3

(Last updated on 2/21/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, 2/27

#### *Transfiguration Sunday*

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion  
(in-person  
and livestream)  
10:15 am 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Historical Presentation  
with John Schmeelk (in-  
person and livestream)  
10:15 am Faith  
Formation for All  
11:15 am Children's  
Choir

### Monday, 2/28

### Tuesday, 3/1

2:00 pm Support Group for  
Caregivers  
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019  
Meeting  
7:00 pm Holy Week  
Planning Meeting ([Join](#)  
via Zoom –  
ID 812 3443 7417)

### Wednesday, 3/2

#### *Ash Wednesday*

8:00 am Men's Breakfast  
at The Landmark  
Restaurant  
9:30 am Bible Study –  
([Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 943 3691 2942)  
12:00 pm Outdoor liturgy  
5:45 pm Chancel Bells  
6:00 pm Folk Group  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday  
Worship (in person and  
livestream)  
7:45 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, 3/3

11:00 am Share Our  
Blessings Meeting ([Join](#)  
via Zoom –  
ID 868 9069 7840)  
6:30 pm Officers  
([Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 836 2369 6315)  
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

### Friday, 3/4

#### *Pastor's Sabbath*

2:30 pm Dulcimer  
Group Rehearsal

### Saturday, 3/5

### Sunday, 3/6

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion  
(in-person  
and livestream)  
10:15 am Adult Book  
Study (In-person or [Join](#)  
via Zoom -  
ID 859 4251 6915)  
10:15 am Faith  
Formation for All  
11:15 am Children's  
Choir

**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:** 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.

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## Hypocrites in Good Company

Critics of Christianity often point out that Christians are hypocrites. Christians publicly espouse a certain set of rules for living—including care for creation, serving God and neighbors in need, and loving our enemies—and, just as publicly, fail to live up to those rules every day and in every way.

Pastor Tony Campolo often tells the story of people who say they don't want to go to church because of all the hypocrites. He reassures them that they should feel right at home. Church is for real people, and real people fail to do and say the right things—real people are hypocrites. Campolo argues that the Christian ideal is to know you're a hypocrite and earnestly work at being less hypocritical.

All the same, we don't want to be hypocrites or show-offs. We question the motives behind our public and private spiritual practices; we question our neighbors' motives too. In today's gospel we hear about fasting cheerfully and praying in secret. And yet, as we leave the church building we bear a public and very noticeable sign of faith right on our foreheads. Lent begins with a bold, visible, unmistakable reminder of who we are: simultaneously mortal dust and baptized children of God. Simultaneously saint and sinner. Simultaneously hypocrites and earnest, hopeful Christians.

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