

*Sunday, March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent*



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 in the narthex and place it in the basket. We will follow up with you.

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Prelude:

Wondrous Love

W. Walker
setting: Craig A. Penfield

“Third Tune - Psalm 2”

from Nine Psalm Tunes for Archbishop Parker’s Psalter

Thomas Tallis
trans. P. Gouin

Psalm 32 (which you can read in the front of the ELW) sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Confession and Forgiveness:

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires 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 and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Gathering Hymn:

What Wondrous Love Is This

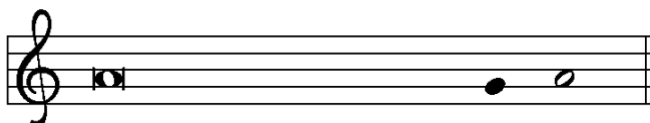
ELW 666

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.

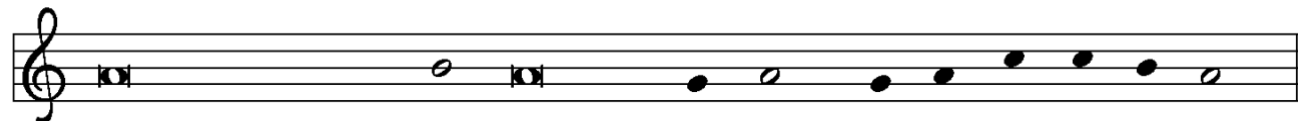
Kyrie:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



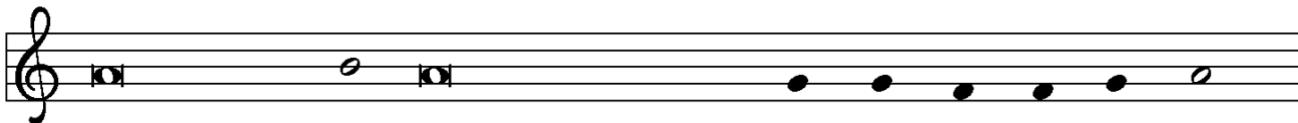
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through 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

Children's Moment

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through

us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

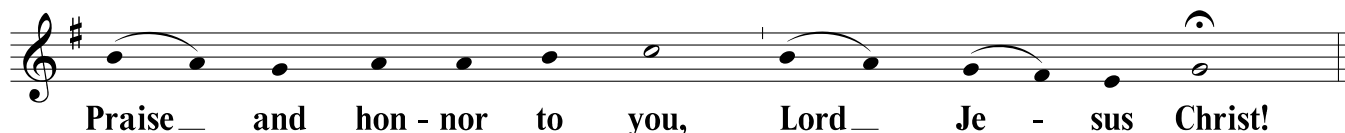
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

REFRAIN

Christopher Walker



Refrain: Leader

Refrain: All

Proper Verse: Leader

*I will arise and go to my father and say,
I have sinned against heaven and before you.*

Refrain: All

The gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to

himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

For Everyone Born

Music on the following page

words: Shirley Erena Murray

music: Brian Mann /arr. Tom Trenney

assisted by leaders: Donna Berner, Dave Wideman

Stanza 1: Leader

Stanza 2: All

Stanza 3: Leader

Refrain: All

Stanzas 4, 5: All

E *Leader or All* A2

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

E A2 Bsus B

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

F#m7 E/G# A2 Bsus

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

E Bsus E Bsus

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and
 joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,
 God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
 jus-tice and joy!

The Prayers of the People:

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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

#1 We thank you, O Lord, for all things new. For the peace you give us, for your creation as it comes alive again as spring draws near, and especially for your Son, Jesus Christ in whom all things are made new. Help us to be ambassadors for you in our world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#2 Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict especially Ukraine. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#3 Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation especially Second Sunday Ministry, the Perinton Food Bank, the Pines of Perinton food shelf and those that have volunteered to be hunger activists in our community. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,
receive 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: Judy & Mark, Ed & Joan, Bob & Cheryl, Penny, and Craig & Susan. We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of compassion, you know our needs better than we ourselves. Hear the prayers that we offer you now.

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

- Michael (dear family friend of Hans) who died on 3/24
- Desmin (brother of Niyen who is the son of Danielle) who died tragically on 3/21
- Patricia (sister of Ginny) who died on 3/21
- Paul (father Haley who is a member of BSA Troop 2019) who died unexpectedly
- Mildred (friend of Ron & Kitty) who died on 3/20

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Lorie (friend of David and Marsha) as she faces a new cancer diagnosis and undergoes significant treatment
- Mary (mother of Jeff) who suffered a stroke last week
- Kathy who is dealing with ongoing health concerns
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

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

Silence for people to offer their prayers

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

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:

“Out of the Deep”
from *Requiem*

Psalm 130
John Rutter

The Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, director)
Julia Finkbeiner, cello

Offertory:

Create in Me a Clean Heart

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. Gracious God,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus 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:

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

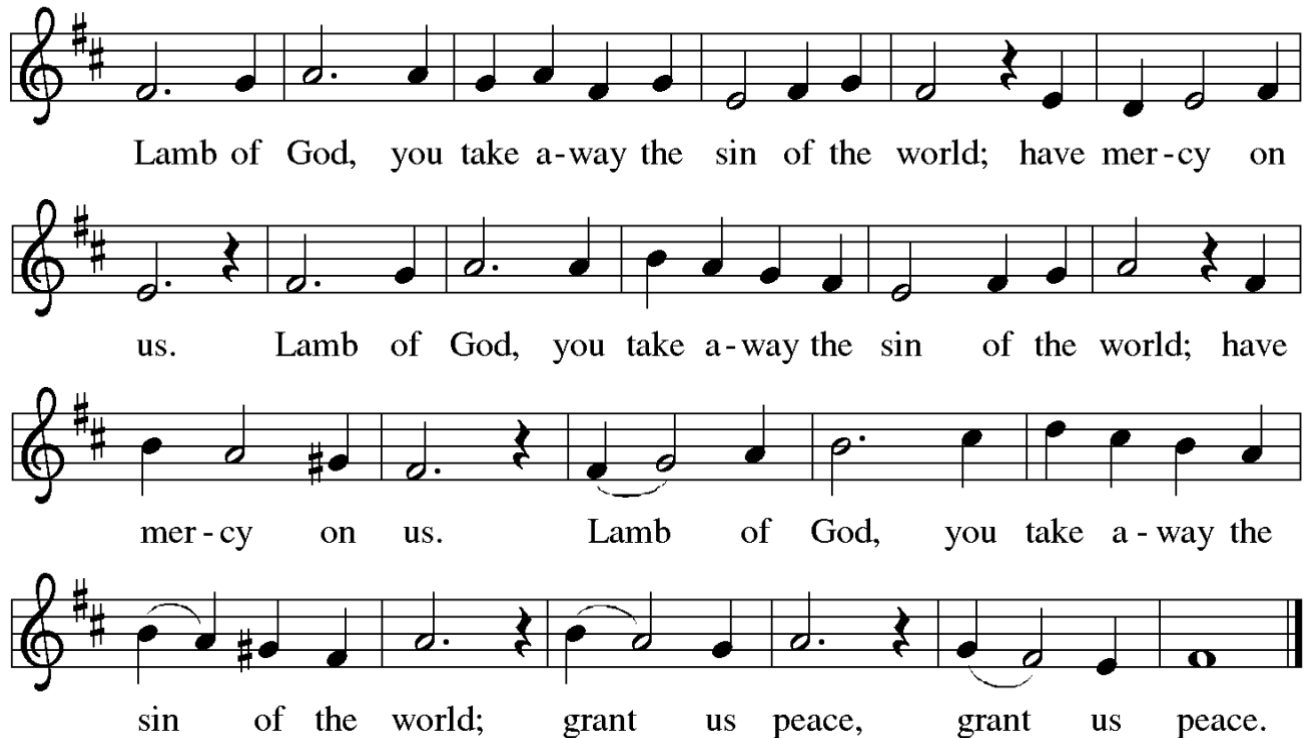
Thanks be to God!

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.

Hymns sung during communion:

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW 332

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

ELW 623

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:

Sending Hymn:

O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True

ELW 675

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:

Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan
(What God Ordains Is Always Right)

Johann Pachelbel

Variations: I, IV, VII

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 (3/27):

- 8:55 am Worship with Communion (in-person and livestream)
- 10:15 am Faith Formation
 - pre-K to 5th grade gathers in the Sunday School Wing
 - 6th-8th grade gathers in the Confirmation room
- 10:15 am Book Study (Fellowship Hall or Zoom)
- 10:15 am Quilt tying for Lutheran World Relief
- 11:15 am Children's Choir (Choir Room)

Hymn of the Day: TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Company
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Calendar for March 27 – April 3

(Last updated on 3/23/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 3/27

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
11:15 am Children's
Choir

Monday, 3/28

4:30 pm Easter Season
Planning Meeting ([Join](#)
via Zoom –
ID 861 5731 4289)

Tuesday, 3/29

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting
7:00 pm Officer's Special
Meeting ([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 899 9675 2398)

Wednesday, 3/30

9:30 am Bible Study –
(in-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
12:00 pm Pause for Prayer
on Facebook Live
5:45 pm Chancel Bells
6:00 pm Folk Group
6:15 pm Sabbath
Conversation (In-person
or [Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 832 6893 0474)
7:00 pm Holden Evening
Prayer Service (in-person
and livestream)
7:45 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 3/31

6:30 pm Re-Opening
Team
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 854 1243 9964)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 4/1

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal
7:00 pm 100th Anniversary:
Showing Joseph & the
Amazing Technicolor
Dreamcoat

Saturday, 4/2

Sunday, 4/3

100th Anniversary Sunday
8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guests:
Rev. Dr. Kent Garner, Dr.
Mark Coffee & Dr.
Brandon Johnson (in-
person and livestream)
10:15 am Visit with
100th Anniversary Guests
10:15 am Faith
Formation
11:15 am Children's
Choir
6:00 pm Youth Group (for
grades 6-12, RSVP
requested)

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.

Holy Week at Bethlehem

April 10, Palm/Passion Sunday

8:55 AM – Palm/Passion Sunday worship with Holy Communion, In person and livestreamed

Share in our processional “parade” by sharing a picture or short video of yourself waving a palm branch! These will be shown as we raise our palm branches and sing!

April 14, Maundy Thursday

7 PM – Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion, In person and livestreamed

April 15, Good Friday

12 – 3 PM – Private prayer and silent devotion in the Bethlehem sanctuary. (Enter through the Perrin Street lift entrance.)

7 PM – Stations of the Cross, In person and livestreamed

April 17, Easter Sunday

7:30 AM – Gather outdoors at Bethlehem to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with word, prayer, and communion! This outdoor gathering (rain or shine!) will not be livestreamed.

8:55 AM – Festive Easter Celebration with Holy Communion, In person and livestreamed

Less Grumbling, More Humbling

Grumbling! The crowd around Jesus—the “in” crowd, that is—was grumbling. Grumbling because Jesus welcomed those who traditionally had been set apart: tax collectors and sinners. Who are those who cause us to grumble? Whose seemingly undeserved handout or unearned status change filled our hearts with resentment this week? Jesus speaks to us today because we too often see life as a game with winners and losers, points and playbooks, offense and defense. Can we open our hearts and minds to hear today’s humbling good news? God’s love is freely shared with all: we cannot earn it, we cannot deserve it. When we attend worship, we do so out of thanksgiving and praise for God’s glory, hunger and thirst for God’s word and sacrament. We do not attend worship to achieve some status within God’s kingdom. When we help a neighbor, share with a stranger, assist the afflicted, or acknowledge the overlooked we do so because Christ first did the same for us. We respond to God’s grace and mercy with our own feeble attempts to emulate God’s perfect love. It is challenging, exhausting, never-ending, perspective-altering, radically humbling work. It’s work that is impossible to do without the inspiration of Christ, the nourishment of wine and bread, and the strength of the saints who have gone before us and with whom we walk Christ’s path today. Let us find those in our world who teach us about Christ’s unending reconciliation, so that we can all celebrate and rejoice as the family of God.