



*Good Friday ~ Stations of the Cross
April 15, 2022*



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Emily Dickinson

*For the first time since 2019, we gather in person as a community of faith on this holiest of days to hear the story of Jesus crucifixion and death. Worship this evening includes artwork by Mary Button. **Stations of the Cross: Pandemic Hope** lifts up images and stories of hope, resiliency, and relationship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Featuring the dedicated work of healthcare, sanitation, and mortuary workers in moments of tenderness in the face of disease and death.*

Each station is paired with stanzas from Emily Dickinson's poem "Hope is the thing with feathers." Dickinson was a deeply compassionate and introspective writer who created beauty out of isolation.

Our service this evening is an adaptation of the ancient Tenebrae Service dating from the Eighth Century. It is a service commemorating the suffering and death of Christ and was originally celebrated on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Holy Week. The literal translation of the Latin word Tenebrae is "shadows" or "darkness."

As candles are extinguished one by one, they symbolize the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus – including our fading loyalty. The darkness of the chancel caused by the extinguished candles also reminds us of the darkness that covered the world at our Lord's crucifixion and the spiritual darkness that would cover the world had not the Light of the World come.

Tonight in poetry, art, music, and scripture, we experience Christ's passion which offers mercy, healing, strength, and pardon.

Friday, April 15, 2022 ~ Good Friday

Prelude:

Toccata per l'Elevatione, F 12.31
(Toccata for the Elevation)

Girolamo Frescobaldi

Herzlich tut mich verlangen, Op. 122, No. 10

Johannes Brahms

(I do desire dearly [a blessed end] / Chorale Prelude on "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded")

We gather tonight in solemn devotion and pause at each station of the cross that Jesus travels as he makes his way to Calvary. Through word, music, and images we reflect on Christ's suffering and death, and all those who continue to bear his likeness in the world today; always remembering the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

Hymn: Sing, My Tongue	ELW 355, stanzas 1 – 4, Tune: PICARDY
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*Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;
Tell the triumph far and wide;
tell aloud the wondrous story of the cross, the Crucified;
tell how Christ, the world's redeemer, vanquished death the day he died.*

*God in mercy saw us fallen,
sunk in shame and misery,
felled to death in Eden's garden, where in pride we claimed the tree;
then another tree was chosen, which the world from death would free.*

*Tell how, when at length the fullness
of the appointed time was come,
Christ, the Word, was born of woman, left for us the heav'nly home,
blazed the path of true obedience, shone as light amidst the gloom.*

*Thirty years among us dwelling,
Jesus went from Nazareth,
destined, dedicated, willing, did his work, and met his death;
like a lamb he humbly yielded on the cross his dying breath.*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

~ STATIONS OF THE CROSS ~

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death
Hope is the thing with feathers

Image: A nurse rests for a few minutes on a COVID ward in Wuhan, China.

Reading: Mark 15:15, 11-15

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ² Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” ³ Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” ⁵ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Prayer:

For those on trial this week and for those appointed to judge them:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Musical Interlude:

Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1008

I. Prelude

Johann Sebastian Bach
transcr. by Watson Forbes

Neil Miller, guest violist

Second Station: Jesus accepts the cross
That perches in the soul

Image: A mother and daughter reach out to each other through a glass window at the Life Care Center in Kirkland, Washington. The Seattle-area long-term care facility became ground zero for the West Coast's coronavirus outbreak.

Reading: Mark 15:16-20

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Prayer:

For those appointed to keep public order,
And for those tempted to abuse their power:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Hymn:	A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth	ELW 340, Stanzas 1, 3
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*A lamb goes uncomplaining forth
to save a world of sinners.
He bears the burden all alone,
dies shorn of all his honors.
He goes to slaughter, weak and faint,
is led to die without complaint;
his spotless life he offers.
He bears the shame, the stripes, the wrath;
his anguish, mockery, and death
for us he gladly suffers.*

*Our Savior answered from his heart
that he would take the burden:
"My Father's will is my command;
I'll do as I am bidden."
Oh, wondrous love! Oh, loving might!
To right what mortals cannot right
the Son was sent from heaven.
What love, O Love, who came to save
by loving even to the grave
until the stone was riven.*

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time
And sings the tune

Image: An opera singer performs "O Sole Mio" from his window in Paris on the tenth day of a strict lockdown in France.

Reading: Isaiah 53:1

Who would have believed what we now tell? Who could have seen God's hand in this?

Prayer:

For those who are tired or in pain:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Hymn:	Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed	ELW 337 Stanzas 1, 2, 5
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*Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
and did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?*

*Was it for sins that I had done
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
and love beyond degree!*

*But tears of grief cannot repay
the debt of love I owe;
here, Lord, I give myself away:
'tis all that I can do.*

Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother
Without the words

Image: Worshipers of Legio Maria in Nairobi attend a prayer session

Reading: John 19:25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Prayer:

For parents whose children are in pain or in trouble:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Musical Interlude:

Oboe Concerto in D Minor, S.D935
II. Adagio

Alessandro Marcello
transcr. by Johann Sebastian Bach

Fifth Station: Simon helps Jesus to carry his cross
And never stops at all

Image: A funeral home worker plays the violin as a deacon holds an umbrella before the cremation of a coronavirus victim at a cemetery in Bogota, Colombia.

Reading: Mark 15:21

On their way through Jerusalem, they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

Prayer:

For a willingness to serve you, in friends and in strangers:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

assisted by Neil Miller, viola

*Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.*

*Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.*

*I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.*

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
And sweetest in the Gale is heard

Image: A granddaughter and grandmother hug through a plastic drop cloth hung up on a homemade clothes line in Wantagh, N.Y. It was the first time they had contact since the pandemic began.

Reading: Matthew 25:35-36, 40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ... ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Prayer:

For those whose faces we wipe, and for those who wipe away our tears:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time
And sore must be the storm

Image: A mortuary worker stands at the Nossa Senhora Aparecida cemetery where COVID-19 victims are buried daily in Manaus, Brazil.

Reading: Isaiah 53:7

Ill-treated and afflicted,
he never said a word.
Like a lamb led to the slaughter-house,
like a sheep dumb before its shearers,
he never opened his mouth.

Prayer:

For those who today will struggle and fall:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Musical Interlude:
Forsaken

words by Dustin Battles
music by Dan Forrest

The Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, director)

Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
That could abash the little bird

Image: A woman holds a photo of a healthcare worker who died of COVID-19.

Reading: Luke 23:27-28

²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

Prayer:

For those who live in places of conflict and danger,
for peacemakers and peacekeepers in every land:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time
That kept so many warm

Image: A maintenance worker sanitizes the handrails outside a homeless shelter.

Reading: Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

Prayer:

For those whom I love,
For those whom I struggle to love,
For those who find me difficult:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

*O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.*

*What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.*

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his clothes
I've heard it in the chillest land

Image: A doctor provides care to an unhoused person.

Reading: Mark 15:22-24

²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

Prayer:

For those deserted by friends,
For those who are alone and vulnerable:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Musical Interlude:
Cello Suite No. 5 in C Minor, BWV 1011
IV. Sarabande

Johann Sebastian Bach
transcr. by Watson Forbes

Neil Miller, viola

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross
And on the strangest sea

Image: A wife weeps while hugging her husband in his final moments in a COVID-19 unit at St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton, California.

Reading: Luke 23:35, 49

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”
⁴⁹ But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Prayer:

For the depth of your love for us, we thank you:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Hymn:	Ah, Holy Jesus	ELW 349, stanzas 1, 2, 5
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*Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.*

*Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.*

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Yet - never - in extremity

Image: A COVID-19 patient, lies in her intensive care bed as family members attempt to communicate via video at Roseland Community Hospital on the South Side of Chicago

Reading: Luke 23:44-46

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Prayer:

For those who have died today,
For those who love them and will miss them:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Hymn:

Were You There

ELW 353, stanzas 1-4

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?*

*Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?*

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross
It asked a crumb

Image: A doctor hugs and comforts a patient in the COVID-19 intensive care unit during Thanksgiving at the United Memorial Medical Center in Houston, Texas.

Reading: Mark 15:42-46

⁴² When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Prayer:

For our family and friends who have died, for ourselves as we carry their stories:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb
of me

Image: A mortician shares photos of a COVID-19 victim with their family before cremation.

Reading: Mark 15:46-47

⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

Prayer:

For those who are waiting, for all who are longing for light:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Candle is extinguished.

Hymn:

Were You There (st. 5)

sung by the cantor

Jim Jefferis, baritone

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

Closing Prayer:

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

May God be merciful and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

(final hymn is on the following page)

*There in God's garden
stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth
the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge,
Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.*

*Its name is Jesus,
name that says, "Our Savior!"
There on its branches
see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils
of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.*

*Thorns not its own
are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it,
our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives!
its grief has not destroyed it
nor fire consumed it.*

*See how its branches
reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says,
"Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness,
give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing."*

*This is my ending,
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.*

*All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*Worship ends in silence.
You may remain in the sanctuary until you are ready to leave.*

Blessings to all as you prepare for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on the third day.

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Find Strength and Hope in the Cross

It is difficult as we kneel before the cross to hear the voice of the gospel. We might imagine that it waits for us at Eastertide, that tonight the law says its peace and come Sunday the gospel will finally win the day, but that is not so. The gospel spells freedom for those held captive to sin. The resurrection only matters for those who know they are dead.

We, who are both saints and sinners, kneel before the cross today or tonight and hear it speaking to us as both verdict and promise. It is true: each of us is guilty of our participation in the world's suffering. We, each bearing the image and likeness of God in our very skin, do not respect that image in one another, much less the world we inhabit, God's good garden.

We do not respect God's creations—one another, or the world we live in. We put one another on the crosses at which Jesus now joins us. We must admit this or there is no need for the salvation Christ brings. We must admit we are in bondage to these patterns of human violence and environmental degradation before we can be liberated from them.

This is the promise of Good Friday: we will be liberated from these crosses—the ones we hang on and the ones on which we hang one another. These crosses, at once symbols of the divisions between us and a symbol of the end to all divisions, promise that God will not abandon us in our suffering. God comes to us just like this, just as we are, but God does not leave us this way. This is the cross—evidence of our sin, and sign of God's love.

Cover Image

Our cover art today was drawn by Jeff Tokarz, a member of the Bethlehem community. Jeff resumed drawing two years ago and recently created this image of Christ as he reflected on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection. We are grateful for Jeff's openness to sharing this image for our reflection this Holy Week.