



Sunday, May 8, 2022

"Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long and how deep his love is."

Ephesians 3:17b-18 (NLT)



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~

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

(585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org

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.

Sunday, May 8, 2022 ~ *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Prelude:

The Lord Is My Shepherd

EVAN

setting: Robert J. Powell

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

arr. Stephen Nielson

Each anniversary Sunday celebration is an opportunity to remember the ways that our worship is rooted in the past, even as we are growing together and sharing in faith today. For the season of Easter, we are returning to a familiar liturgical setting (#1 from the Lutheran Book of Worship published in 1978). This setting continues to shape our faith today and remains as setting 3 in our current ELW hymnal. Today's worship also features a number of hymns that are listed as "BLC Favorites" – those hymns BLC worshipers counted among your favorites when asked in spring of 2020.

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Worship:

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Over powers and principalities, over all who determine, control, govern or finance the affairs of humankind,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Of the poor, of the broken, of the sinned against and the sinner,

Jesus Christ is Lord.


Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

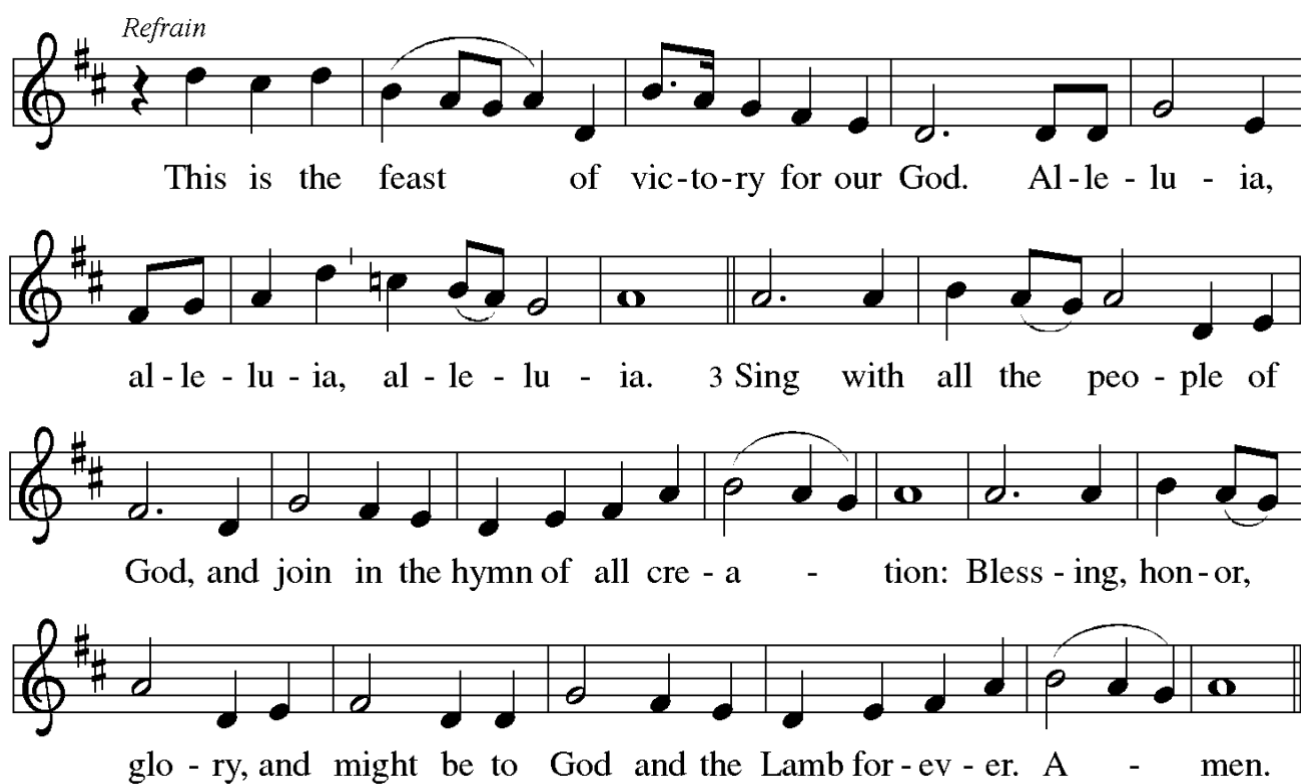
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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

Pastor Jane Nicholson

Reading: Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body

and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

(A favorite hymn of BLC)

The Prayers of the People:

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

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

#1 Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#2 Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#3 Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation and wash us in your saving grace each day. We pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: David & Tarma, Gary & Paula, Jeff & Julie, Jim & Sherry, Frank & Jane; and for our sisters and brother sin our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation. Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes.

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

- Valerie (cousin of Julie) who died on 5/2
- Tom (father of Lisa) who died on 4/29
- William (father of Julie) who died on 4/27
- Chris (former BLC member) who died on 4/25

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Jim who was hospitalized following a TIA this week
- Martha who is recovering from knee replacement surgery on 4/1
- Morey who is recovering at home
- Donna (friend of Chris) who has breast cancer and is beginning chemo
- Ning (friend of Chris) who is permanently blind due to a complication following heart surgery
- 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

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; 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:

When Rooks Fly Homeward

words: Joseph Campbell
music: Arthur Baynon

Karie Templeton, guest director

The Chancel Choir

Offertory:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

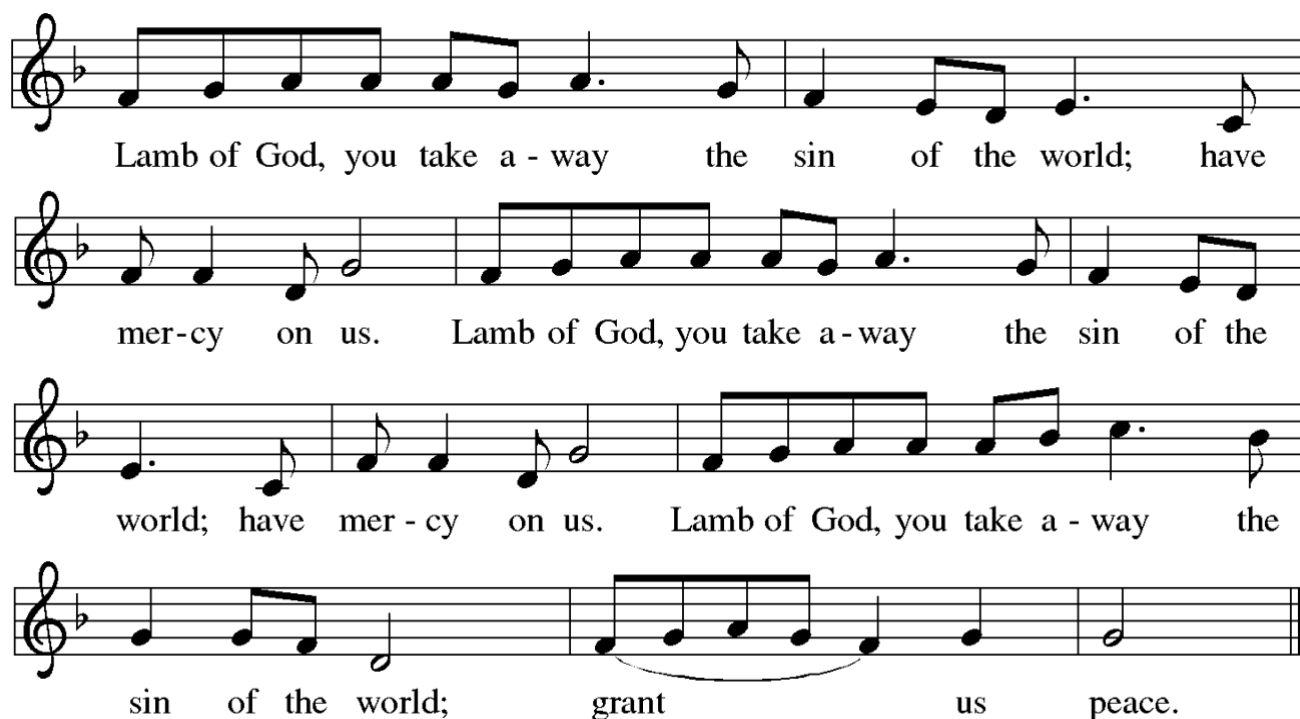
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

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.

Hymns sung during communion:

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

ELW 782

The Motherhood of God

Words: Julian Stearns Cutler

Tune: *NETTLETON*

(words printed below)

*Motherhood, sublime, eternal, lives in God's great heart of Love;
Ever holds us, safe enfolds us, underneath, around, above;
Patient, tender, kind, forgiving, though in devious paths we roam;
Gently chides us, ever guides us, and all-loving, leads us home.*

*Ev'ry wrong will sure be righted; ev'ry evil swept away;
Truth upspringing, justice bringing, ushers in the brighter day;
Mother calls her earthly children, loves them, lifts them when they fall;
Striving, calling, fainting, falling, Motherlove enfolds them all.*

*God is love, and love forever in the motherheart is blest;
Lives the longest, lifts the strongest, far outreaching all the rest;
Not by might, and not by wisdom comes our lifting from the sod:
Love's pure glory tells the story in the Motherheart of God.*

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:



On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537

(This hymn is a favorite of Pastor Nicholson)

Benediction:

May the risen Christ amaze us, open us to receive new life, and send us to share all that we have seen and heard with the blessing of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dismissal:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Easter Postlude on "Handel"

JUDAS MACCABAEUS

George Frideric Handel

setting: 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.

This morning we welcome two anniversary guests: Rev. Jane Floy Nicholson to lead us in worship and Karie Schroer Templeton as she directs the Chancel Choir in anthem. Pastor Nicholson is currently pastor at First Lutheran Church in Chambersburg, PA and Karie oversees the choral music program at the Eastman School of Music. We are blessed by their presence among us and extend our heartfelt thanks to both for sharing their gifts with us today. Read more about our guests in today's bulletin and please plan to greet them at an informal Q&A session in the sanctuary following worship. Welcome back!

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Rev. Jane Floy Nicholson

Pastor Nicholson served as Associate in Ministry with the people of Bethlehem upon her graduation from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH in 1996 until 2003. She remembers “the walls were bursting with children of all ages. What a joy to see the excitement for our Lord, and parents striving to share the faith with their children.”

When she began her time at BLC, Terri Pries was in her first year as Sunday School Superintendent. Lori Nickoloff, Beth Walker, John Schmeelk, and Debbie Lillie were very involved in teaching and reforming the confirmation program to accommodate the many schedules. There were more little children than there was floor space during the time of the Children’s Message at worship. Groups of 25 people were attending the National Youth Gatherings.

Jane recalls a vibrancy in the church. “The Holy Spirit drew people into this place with these people through word and sacrament incorporated into the excellent worship, coordinated and led by Pastor Kent Garner and our music ministers, Susan DePasquale and Kathy Elwood.

It was an era of exceptional congregational growth. If you did not get to worship early, there was not a seat in the sanctuary to be had on most Sundays. She spent the first few Christmas Eves sitting in the cold hallway with the wind blowing through the Perrin Street entrances to the education building parking lot, as there was no available seating.

It was during her tenure that Phase One of the building expansion plan was introduced and completed. Russ Lipp and many others worked together to facilitate this project and there was even greater excitement that followed.

During her time at BLC, Pastor Nicholson met her now husband, Mark; they were married at Bethlehem. While they were dating, she remembers a congregation camping trip over Memorial Day when the high school youth drilled Mark by asking him if his intentions were honorable. “We had only been dating for two months at that point. I am glad they did not scare him off!”



In 2003, Pastor Nicholson left Bethlehem when she accepted a call to serve as Associate in Ministry for the Spiritual Development of Children and Sr. Adults at First Lutheran Church in Norfolk, VA. While there, she sensed a call to become an ordained pastor and in 2009 she completed her schooling through Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. She served as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Latrobe, PA. Beginning in September 2014, she has been pastor to the people of First Lutheran Church in Chambersburg, PA, where she and Mark reside.

Pastor Nicholson enjoys time in the flower beds, going for walks, visiting antique malls, traveling, and keeping in touch with friends and family. And, of course, she and Mark are both avid Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates fans. But, she notes, they still cheer for the Buffalo Bills, too!

Karie Schroer Templeton



Ms. Templeton was the Director of BLC's Chancel Choir from 1984-1988.

She received a Bachelor's degree in Choral Music Education from Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH (1976) and a Master of Music in Music Education and Voice from Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY (1984). She did additional graduate studies at the Eastman School of Music.

Ms. Templeton is retired after forty years of teaching vocal music in the Pittsford schools, having directed the Sutherland High School choral ensembles, voice classes, and the musical theater program. She has also taught at the elementary level and, for 19 years, at the middle school level. Her school choirs consistently received superior ratings at a variety of music festivals throughout the United States and Canada. They have performed at MENC Eastern Division Conferences in Pittsburgh, PA and Rochester, NY and at the 2001 NYSSMA State Conference.

Ms. Templeton currently oversees the choral program at the Eastman School of Music Community Music School. She directs the Eastman Youth Chamber Singers (high school), the Eastman Children's Choir (grades 5-8) and mentors the Eastman Young Children's Choir (grades 2-4). During the summer Ms. Templeton is director of the Eastman Classical Studies High School Summer Choir. She has conducted many All-County and Area All-State Festival Choruses in New York State.

Ms. Templeton is married with one son, daughter-in-law, and a beautiful grandson. She remembers her time at Bethlehem with great fondness. The friends, the music, and the worship were deeply fulfilling.

Happening today (5/8):

100th Anniversary Sunday!

- 8:55 am Worship with Communion (in- person and livestream)
- 10:15 am 100th Anniversary Q&A and conversation with guests (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
- 11:15 am Children's Choir
- 11:45 am 2nd Sunday Dinner Ministry (delivery only)

Calendar for May 8 – May 15

(Last updated on 5/4/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 5/8

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guests:
Rev. Jane Floy Nicholson
& Karie Schroer
Templeton (in- person
and livestream)
10:15 am 100th
Anniversary Q&A and
conversation with guests
(in-person
and livestream)
10:15 am Faith
Formation
11:15 am Children's
Choir
11:45 am 2nd Sunday
Dinner Ministry
(delivery only)

Monday, 5/9

1:00 pm Ruth Circle
7:00 pm Virtual BLC
Investment in Ministries
Fund (IMF) Q&A
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 872 7338 5832)

Tuesday, 5/10

2:00 pm Support Group for
Caregivers
6:15 pm M&SC Meeting
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 812 1431 6292)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 5/11

9:30 am Bible Study –
(in-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
6:00 pm Chancel Bells
6:15 pm Folk Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 5/12

6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop
Meeting
6:30 pm BLC Officers
Meeting

Friday, 5/13

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 5/14

9:15 am Property
Committee

Sunday, 5/15

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with 100th
Anniversary
congregational photo
10:15 am Special
Congregational Meeting
(in-person)
10:15 am Faith
Formation
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.

The Searching Sheep

Messages and information today are texted, tweeted, broadcast, e-mailed, phoned, lectured, announced, packaged, and repackaged. The means and avenues for communication are many. Yet when it comes to the person known as Jesus of Nazareth we are often left standing in the place of the Jewish people who gathered around Jesus at that portico (John 10:22-23). We long to know, Who are you, Jesus? and perhaps want to probe, What are you really about? Of course the qualification is for him to “tell us plainly” (John 10:24). As the church we have grown accustomed to the idea of Jesus seeking out the lost sheep and bringing them safely home—of knowing the sheep intimately by name. Today’s texts are rich in reframing who is searching for whom. Who is seeking after Jesus, and to what does that seeking lead? Still, will we be satisfied with any answer? The faith of Tabitha and the miracle-working Peter, the vision of saints and mythical beasts, and even Jesus’ works point to one who is in and of God. Yet we wonder if it can’t be spelled out for us more clearly. In this season of proclaiming a Christ who breaks the powers of death and whose realm is one of glory, we open ourselves to questions of exactly who this Jesus is—and see answers coming to life in story, miracles, and testimony. Today is an opportunity for us in weakness and glory, in doubt and in faith, in simplicity and awe to seek and embrace the one who is already in our midst.