



Sunday, May 15, 2022
Fifth Sunday of Easter



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

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Prelude:

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

BEACH SPRING
arr. David Cherwien

Earth and All Stars!

EARTH AND ALL STARS
David N. Johnson
setting: Michael Burkhardt

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

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.

Above the Church, beyond our most excellent theologies and in the quiet corners of our hearts,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

Gathering Hymn: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367

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.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, 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

Children's Moment

Pastor Amy

Reading: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will

give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

assisted by The Folk Group (Rich Towsley, director)

Stanzas 1. The Folk Group

2. All

3. All

4. All

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Words and Music by
Peter Scholtes

♩ = 56

Em D/E Em D/E Em D/E Em D/E Em



1 We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord; We are
2 We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand; We will
3 We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side; We will
4 All_____ praise to the Fa - ther, from_____ whom all things come; And all

5 Am D7/A Em D/E Em



one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord. And we
walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand. And to -
work with each oth - er, we will work side by side. And we'll
praise to Christ Je - sus, His_____ on - ly_____ Son. And all

9 Am D7/A Em D/E Em



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored. And they'll
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land. And they'll
guard each man's dig - ni - ty and save_____ each man's pride. And they'll
praise to the Spir - it, who_____ makes_____ us_____ one. And they'll

13 C Em Am



know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love, yes they'll

17 Em Am D7/A Em



know_____ we are Chris - tians by our love._____

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 Faithful God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#2 God of all, humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#3 Loving God, place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, you make all things new. Strengthen and renew the relationships we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: John & Paulette, Patty & Ralph, John & Patti, Dick & Susie, Emmett, Evelyn, and Jeffrey & Letitia. Bring new life and growth to the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Breathe new life into those struggling in body, mind, or spirit.

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

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Erich who is hospitalized following a fall
- Rob (former pastor of Andy Gates) who is recovering from surgery on 5/10
- Jim who is recovering at home following a recent hospitalization after a TIA
- 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:
Agnus Dei
(Lamb of God)

text: Traditional Latin
music: John Leavitt

The Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, director)

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
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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.

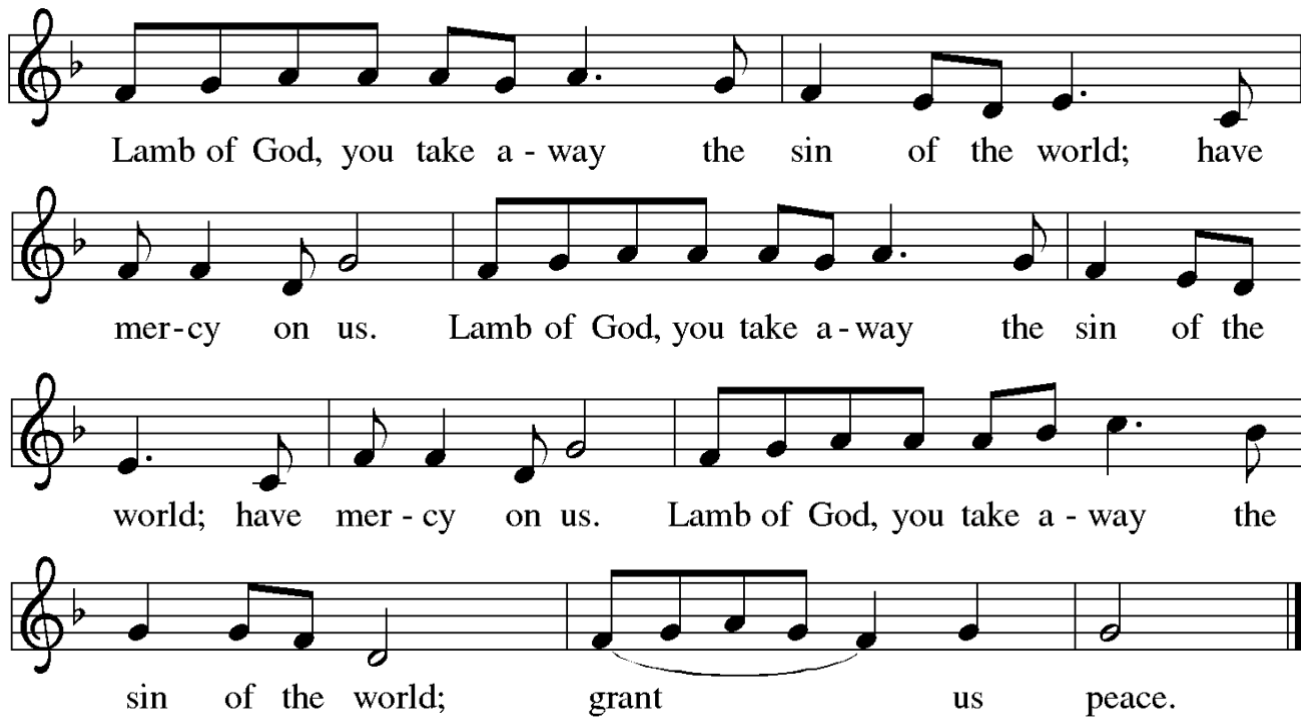
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

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.

Hymn sung during communion:
Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW 464

Hymns sung during communion:
As God's Beloved and Chosen Ones

Tune: *REPTON*

As God's Beloved and Chosen Ones

Text: Barbara Strauss

1. As God's belov'd and chosen ones,
we answer then your call
to clothe in self-humility,
compassion, meekness, patience, love.
In the name of Jesus live: so others we forgive.

2. We bear another's burdens, Lord,
forgiving and forgiv'n.
You clothe us in your perfect love,
as pure as harmony above.
In the name of Jesus live: our love to others give.

3. Your love and peace will rule our hearts;
unite us into one.
Your word dwells richly in our souls,
our thankfulness to you o'erflows.
In the name of Jesus, where his wisdom we can share.

4. With wisdom and a grateful heart
we sing our psalms of praise.
The hymns, that nurtured faith, renew
our words and deeds and all we do
in the name of Jesus. Praise: our grateful songs we raise.

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:

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.

assisted by Dave Wideman and The BLC Percussion Ensemble

Intro: Ensemble

Stanzas: 1. Choir — We are marching in the light of God

2. All — We are dancing ...
3. All — We are praying ...
4. All — We are singing ...

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.

The quilts in the narthex were made by BLC Quilters and will be donated to Linus Blankets for distribution through hospitals and various agencies.

Happening today (5/15):

- 8:55 am Worship with Communion with 100th Anniversary congregational photo (in-person and livestream)
- 10:15 am Special Congregational Meeting (in-person)
- 10:15 am Faith Formation
 - pre-K to 5th grade only - gather in the Sunday School Wing
- 11:15 am Children's Choir

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Calendar for May 15 – May 22

(Last updated on 5/11/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

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 for pre-K
through 5th grade only
11:15 am Children's
Choir

Monday, 5/16

Tuesday, 5/17

6:30 pm Re-Opening Team
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 850 3341 3495)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 5/18

9:30 am Bible Study –
(in-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
6:20 pm Chancel Bells
6:15 pm Folk Group
6:30 pm Troop 208
Planning Meeting

Thursday, 5/19

4:00 pm Share Our
Blessings Team
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 885 1314 2393)
6:30 pm Church Council
(in-person or [Join](#) via
Zoom –
ID 818 7910 2136)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 5/20

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal
4:30 pm Children's Choir

Saturday, 5/21

Sunday, 5/22

100th Anniversary Sunday
8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guest:
Rev. Wayne Shipman
(in- person and
livestream)
10:15 am 100th
Anniversary Q&A and
conversation with guest
(in-person
and livestream)
10:15 am Faith
Formation for pre-K
through 5th grade only
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.

God's Beautifully Messy Community

From abandonment to homecoming and from a narrow scope to a broader vision of God's realm, these are the promises proclaimed. The early church and our faith communities are called to engage this reality. A community of Jewish Jesus-followers overcomes fear and expands to include the much larger Gentile world. In the hymnody of the psalm the whole creation and her people are ushered into praise and the trumpeting of a new community. An exiled follower of Jesus sees in the midst of his situation a vision of the Holy One who proclaims a new heaven and earth, stripped of tears and death. Finally, Jesus shares that he will no longer be physically present with his disciples, and points them to a new way of being a community of love for one another. Through the depth of the texts for this day, people are invited to explore the beauty and the messiness of community. The church, like any other human organization, is filled with the challenges of what it means to live together (for example, who is welcome? What rules do people need to follow? How do we care for one another?). Unlike other human institutions, however, we are called to be centered and re-centered in the unapologetic love for others. In our imperfection we are welcomed and called to invite others. We offer, in a spirit of humility, signs of welcome and love to others, just as God in Christ has been revealed to us.