

Sunday, June 26, 2022 3rd Sunday after Pentecost



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ <u>www.blcfairport.org</u> 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!

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.

Leading worship today...Visit the table in the Narthex and put your name next to the role you will fill in today's worship and pick up the corresponding bulletin. Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a prescheduled role? Fill out the survey on the table in the narthex and place it in the basket. We will follow up with you.

Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship – including worship leadership roles like acolyting and assisting with communion! 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).

Holy Communion: All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Those who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. If you or your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with one of our pastors.

Hearing assistance: Our sound system is equipped with personal hearing loop devices. Please ask a member of the Hospitality Team for a loop device.

Our Perrin Street entrance is accessible. Please ask for help if you need assistance operating the lift.

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.

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Prelude:

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN setting by Paul Manz

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

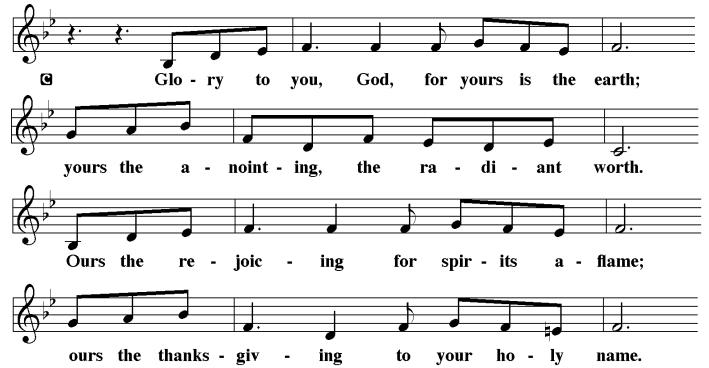
Gathering Hymn:	O Holy Spirit, Enter In	ELW 786
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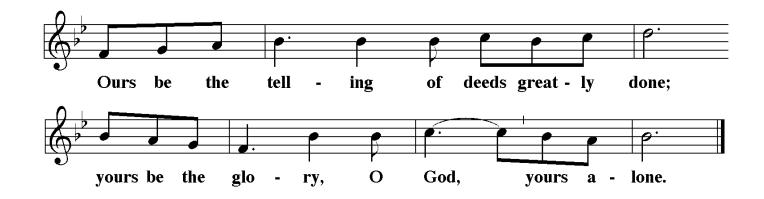
Greeting:

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.

Hymn of Praise:





Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

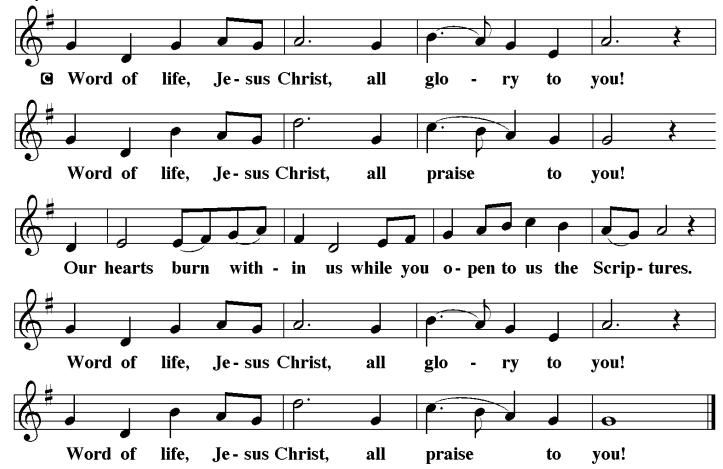
¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a

village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Will You Come and Follow Me Hymn of the Day: **ELW 798** sts. 1, 2, 4, 5

Response to the Word:

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

The Peace:

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor. If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

**Please remain standing. **

The Prayers of the People:

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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

#1 God of peace, guide all who govern, that they place the good of their citizens above self-promotion. Anoint leaders of nations with your Spirit of neighborly love. Protect refugees and all who live under tyranny or conflict. God of grace, hear our prayer.

#2 God of kindness, reveal your healing presence to all who are sick or dying. Uphold those who grieve. Support the needs of any who are unemployed, hungry, or have nowhere to lay their heads. God of grace, hear our prayer.

#3 God of love, attend to those struggling with addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger. Provide support systems and loving companions as they work toward health, that they may rest in hope and know the fullness of joy in your presence. God of grace,

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: Chrisanne & Nancy, Marjorie & Mark, Darcy, David & Marsha, and Sandy. Bring new life and growth to the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of grace, 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:

- Heidi (friend of Jeff and Ruth) who died on 6/15
- Ricki who died on 6/21

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

We also remember those we lift before you, silently and aloud...

Silence for people to offer their prayers

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL:

Thanksgiving for the 100th Anniversary Planning Team

Let us pray.

We thank you, Lord God,

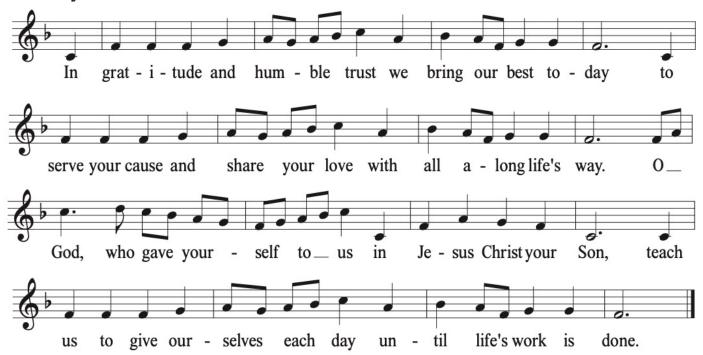
for brave and believing people who planted your message in this place. We praise you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, who worked in them to gather and give order to this community, and who still sustains it. Remembering all those who have gone before us, we pray that we may follow as they followed, in the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Offering

We give to God all that God has first given us – ourselves, our time and our possessions. If you would like to support the ministry of BLC with your offering, scan the QR code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page through Tithe.ly. Those worshipping in person may leave their offering in the basket in the narthex.



Offertory:



Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer:

Lord, we pray as you 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:

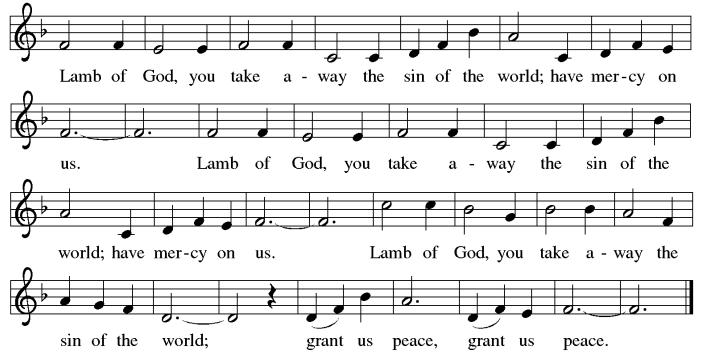
In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

Thanks be to God.

Distribution of Communion:

All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Those who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. The bread is glutenfree. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.

The Communion:



Hymns sung during communion:	
The Son of God, Our Christ	ELW 584
	sts. 1, 2, 4, 5
As Rain from the Clouds	ELW 508

Post-Communion Prayer:

Let us pray. Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Farewell and Thanksgiving for Beth Schoenfeld

Sending Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing ELW 5	547
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Benediction:

The God of peace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

Amen.

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

The Ash Grove setting by Paul R. Otte

Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Fill out the survey on the table in the narthex and place it in the basket or speak with a pastor.

What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at www.blcfairport.org. Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please visit https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/

Church office hours: Thank you for your patience during this transition without office support staff. Our co-Pastors are available Sunday-Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585)223-0634 or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org

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Many thanks to all the planners and participants who ensured a wonderful Outdoor Worship & Picnic last Sunday. Following a powerful and energy-filled worship at Center Park, everyone enjoyed the picnic and entertainment marking this last month YEARS of our 100th Anniversary celebration. To glimpse the fun, check out the photos on the church website at

https://blcfairport.org/sunday-june-19-2022-outdoor-worship-and-picnic/

Today, the final Sunday of our celebration, we invite you to take part in the inter-generational Scavenger Hunt following worship. Teams of 5-8 are asked to gather in the narthex where each team will be given its assignment. Sleuth out the clues in the order given, keeping in mind that accuracy is more important than speed. When completed, the teams will return to the narthex for the final tally. You may even win a prize!

As our anniversary celebration comes to a close, it would be a good time to reveal yourself to the Prayer Partner that was assigned to you last November. Let them know that you have been thinking about them and holding them in prayer. You are free to continue to do so!

June 30 is the deadline for ordering your free Anniversary DVD keepsake, featuring highlights of our celebration. The DVD will not be available until September, but we ask that you place your order now as we will only make up the number requested. To access the order form, go to https://blcfairport.org/100th-anniversary-dvd. If you have any questions, contact Donna Berner at 585-314-5732.

Throughout our anniversary year, we have talked about the self-paced interactive programs. Bob Stock has put all of these programs on two laptops which he has been sharing with our home-bound members. If you would like to borrow one of his laptops in order to watch these programs at home, contact Bob at 585-329-2550.

A huge THANK YOU from the Anniversary Committee to everyone who helped in our celebration over the past year. From guest hosts and greeters to planners and photographers, we could not have managed without you. We are also grateful to our BLC staff - Pastor Hoffman, Pastor Amy, Raelynn Clare, Jim Jefferis, and Beth Schoenfeld. Thank you for your help and support. It truly takes a village! We are thankful that we were able to celebrate our history, our leaders, and our service to others as a people of God in this place. May we continue to be Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith, and Sharing God's Love. Thanks be to God for his grace and goodness and may the Spirit continue to blow us forward!

Asking Everything

What does it mean to be a disciple? Today's texts answer this question in various ways.

Elisha was given the burdensome mantle of Elijah. Up until this point he'd simply been a student of the great prophet. Then, without much warning, Elijah passed the leadership responsibility onto him and transitioned dramatically from this life into the next. Because it was an immense responsibility, Elisha asked his master for a double portion of his spirit and was given it. God generously provided for Elisha so that he could faithfully continue Elijah's work. Paul spells out the mission before us. Last week, he pointed out the power we've been given through our baptism. Now he explains that with the Spirit of God within, our lives should be different. He contrasts the work of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. We are called to use our freedom in Christ for good, so that God can transform our lives and empower us for ministry.

In the gospel, Jesus faces more resistance from those he's called. People conjure up all sorts of excuses why they can't start right away, but Jesus will have none of it. He's calling and he wants a straight answer now. You're in or you're out. He makes it clear that answering his call and living the life of discipleship requires no less than *everything*.

These passages are difficult. They show how much God is demanding of those who wish to follow. Those called are asked to give everything. No wonder there is resistance. Yet, they also remind us that the Spirit will support our work and, in turn, give us everything to enable us to answer the call.