

*O Come, O Key of David
Sunday, November 20, 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

Sunday, November 20, 2022 ~ *O Come, O Key of David*

Announcements

Call to Worship:

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

arr. Linda R. Lamb

The Chancel Bells

For centuries, Christians have sung O Come, O Come Emanuel and lifted up the titles for the Messiah that are named in scripture. Today's readings point to Messiah – Key of David – who opens the way to justice and peace.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Come, Lord Jesus.

On this day and in this place, be our guest.

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

And confront our sins, confessing them to God who is merciful and just.

Silence for reflection

God for whom we wait,

We confess that we have grown complacent with the world as it is and lost a vision for how you created it to be. We fail to see you in the face of our neighbor. We believe we can save ourselves. Come to us with forgiveness and mercy.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ☩ Christ, and your sins are washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen

GREETING

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding,
The love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds,
And the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ opened wide the gate of heaven, making plain the way that leads to eternal joy: Grant that we who have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised to new life may strive courageously for the freedom and peace of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257
st. 5

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS

All kids ages 3 through elementary are welcome to a special time of hearing the Word, conversation and activity! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in the room across the hall from the side entrance to the sanctuary. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.

READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and

have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!". The piano accompaniment features chords and single notes, with a final measure in each system marked with a large '8'.

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴[[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And 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!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

#1 Come, Lord Jesus as we look for you in nature. Protect waterways from pollution and animal habitats from destruction. Be with those recovering from natural disasters. Guide us all in careful stewardship of waters, plant life, and animals. Key of David,
Hear us, we pray.

#2 Come, Lord Jesus as we pray for the people gathered here. Guide our pastors and council members and other leaders in discernment, and nurture new leaders with fresh ideas. Give this congregation a spirit of discipleship and service. Key of David,
Hear us, we pray.

#3 Come, Lord Jesus as we pray for all who are undermined or oppressed. Amplify the voices of the unheard and break open stubborn systems of injustice. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your redeeming light. Key of David,
Hear us, we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus to neighbors far and near. We pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Jeff & Terri, Andrea & Karl (Eliana, Raedyn), Becki & Bob, Morey, and Dale. Be with our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe as they receive your presence in new ways. Key of David,
Hear us, we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus, to all in need of your hope and healing.

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

- Phil E., who died on November 2

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- John N., cousin of Toni T., who is hospitalized and will soon begin dialysis
- Neil V., who is recovering from knee replacement
- David, brother of Celia T., on hospice care
- 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 individual prayer.

Key of David,
Hear us, we pray.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

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.

OFFERING

Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting

blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry.

OFFERING OF MUSIC

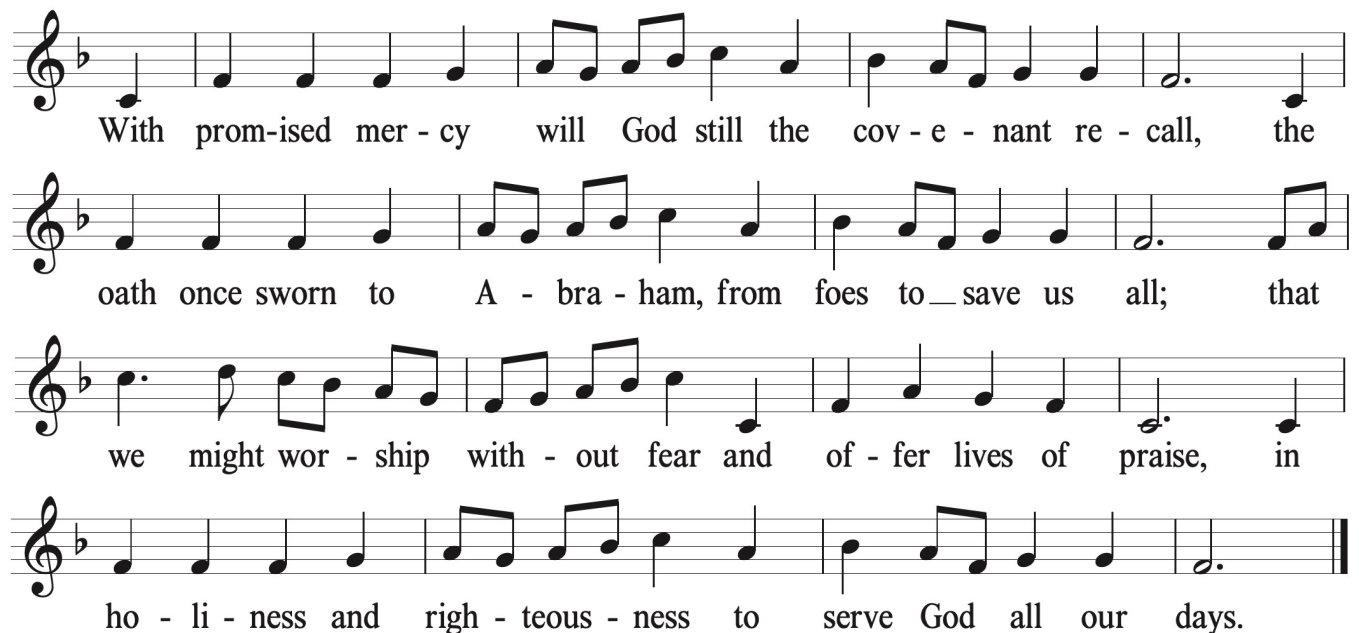
E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

based on Revelation 22

Paul O. Manz

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all; that
we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in
ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We pray. Holy One,

we wait in hope. And we give with hope. Hope for your coming reign; hope because you are present with us even now. Receive these generous offerings, and use them for your work of healing and hope in the world. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Spirit and the church cry out:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

All those who await his appearance pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The whole creation pleads:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lord Jesus,

open our hearts to believe that you come in this meal of grace. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in Spirit, we pray:

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

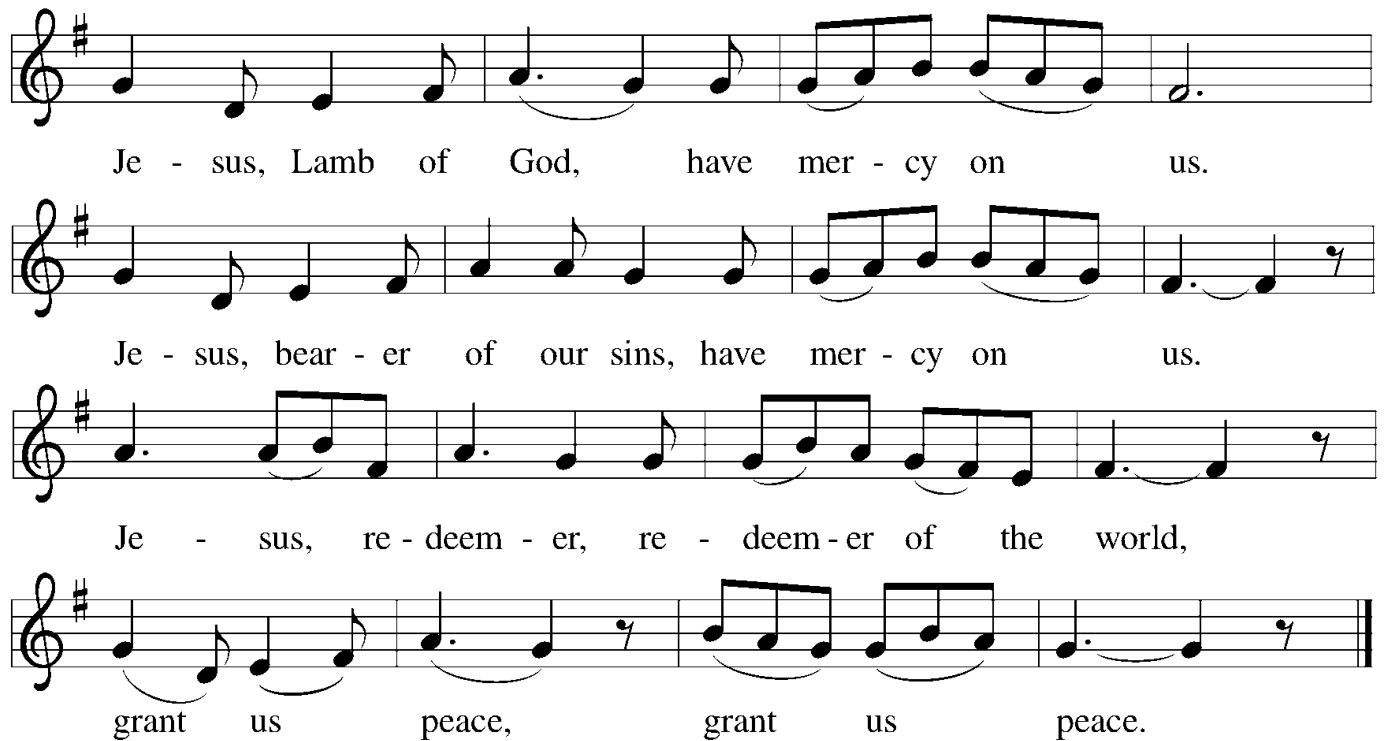
Be strong, do not fear. Here is your God who has come to save you.

Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. 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



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN
Beautiful Savior (ELW 838)

Silesian folk tune
arr. Rich Towsley

assisted by BLC Dulcimers

Dulcimers: instrumental prelude
All: sts. 1, 3, 4

COMMUNION HYMN
For the Fruit of All Creation

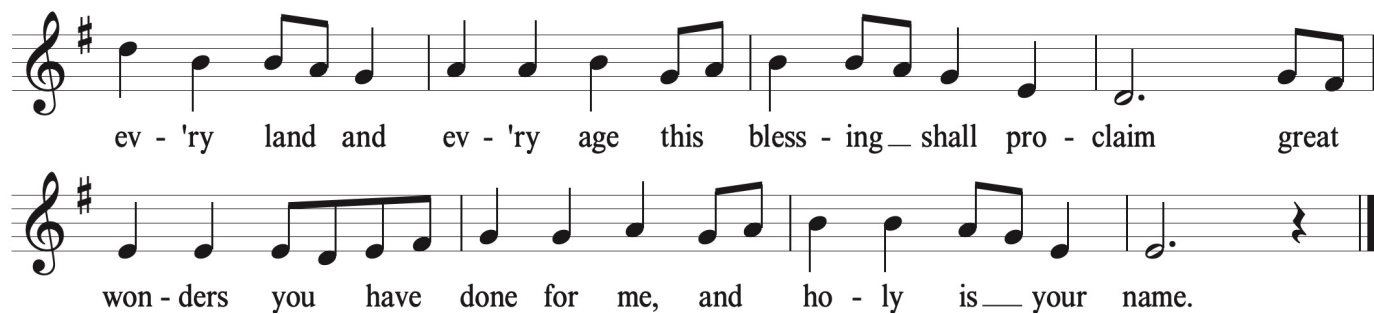
ELW 679

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise! You
looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace. Now



ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing_ shall pro - claim great
 won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is_ your name.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	O God of Every Nation	ELW 713
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Wait for the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The King of Glory

LYONS - (ELW 825)
 setting, Mary McDonald

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Dr. Jim Jefferis, Director of The Chancel Choir

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

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.

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.

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 email the church office at office@blcfairport.org or 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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Prayer of the Day is from *What Are We Waiting For* by William H. Petersen
Offertory Prayer – by Rev. Joanna Harader from SpaciousFaith.com

Who Is Jesus?

Jesus' true identity seems to remain a mystery for most of the disciples. Jesus can teach, preach, heal, cast out demons, challenge authority and more, but still they do not comprehend. You might say it is a case of mistaken identity as the disciples and other followers seem to be hoping to discover something very different from the real Jesus. It is the criminal executed with Jesus who in his dying desperation says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Clearly, the criminal has no other hope, still in this moment he acknowledges Jesus' true identity.

Modern followers of Jesus resemble those ancient followers in many ways. Everyone has their own image of Jesus, the gifts we want Jesus to bring us, the ways we want Jesus to fix those things in our lives that cause pain or suffering. In our anxiety we want Jesus to be our magical savior. It can be frustrating when we discover a very different Jesus. Instead of one who fixes everything in an instant, Jesus is the one who walks with us through the darkest valleys. Jesus is the one who calls us to lives of service—and again and again as we care for the needs of others we discover the face of Jesus himself in the lost, the last, and the least.

Our sin gets in the way, yet those who profess Jesus as Christ the King—the one in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell—are forever seeking to be clear in heart, mind, and soul about the true nature of his identity, and how we can share that identity with others.