



*Sunday, January 14, 2024  
Second Sunday after Epiphany*



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)  
The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

## Sunday, January 14, 2024 ~ *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

### PRELUDE

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte  
setting, John Carter

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.*

### **GATHERING**

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.**

**Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of † Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW 314

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. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst  
arr. Rich Towsley

BLC Dulcimers

## **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: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

*At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

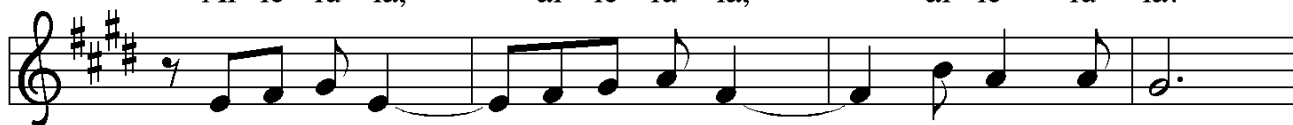
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*A - le - lu - ya,            a - le - lu - ya,            a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia,            al - le - lu - ia,            al - le - lu - ia!*



*A - le - lu - ya,            a - le - lu - ya,            a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia,            al - le - lu - ia,            al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,*  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
*a - le - lu - ya! a - le - lu - ya!*  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

*In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."*

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

## APOSTLES' CREED

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, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

#1 Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

#2 Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

#3 Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We follow you in showing love and care in our world. We pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Bob & Julie, Evan (Maxwell, Reagan & Ryan), Peggy, Anne & Richard (Olivia), Luke, and CarolynAnn. Be with our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe and Pastor Hove as they begin their ministry together. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Making yourself known to those struggling in body, mind or spirit, provide for those in any need.

*We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:*

- the safe delivery of Hazel Marcy C, daughter of Cori and Steve C, and granddaughter of Tom and Marcy A, who was born on 1/5

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

- Anna D, aunt of John C, who died on 1/6
- Jim K, godfather of Roger K, who died on 12/30
- Mary S, who died on 12/28
- Christopher F, nephew of Rich and Sue T, who died on 12/27

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Karen B, who is receiving care at home
- Morey R, who is transitioning to a new level of care

Hear these prayers we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

*Silence for individual prayer.*

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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](http://blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry).

### OFFERING OF MUSIC

Lord, Here Am I

words, Fanny Crosby – based on Isaiah 6:8  
music, Jay Althouse

### The Chancel Choir

#### OFFERTORY

*Refrain*



Take my life, that I \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_ con-se-crated, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ to thee;



take my mo - ments and \_\_\_\_\_ my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.



Take my will and make \_\_\_ it thine; it shall be no lon - ger mine;

take my heart, it is \_\_\_ thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne. *to Refrain*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One,  
**for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us.**  
**Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus,**  
**in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
 God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,



*Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to es el Se - ñor.*  
 God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



*Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la*  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



*tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el*  
 earth. . . . . Blest is he who comes in the



*nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el*  
 name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



*cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -*  
 high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . . .



*di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.*  
 Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in Spirit, we 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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

**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

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros,                      ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.



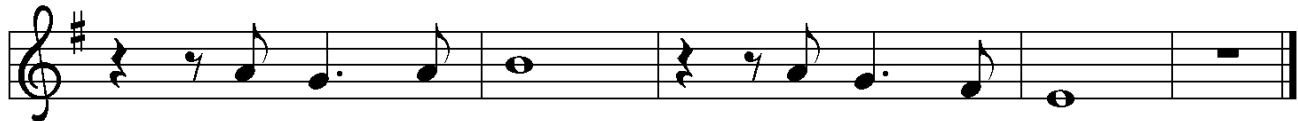
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,                      ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz,                      da - nos tu paz.  
grant us your peace,                      grant us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Living Breath of God

ELW 407

The Son of God, Our Christ

ELW 584

TABLE BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



*Tu - ya es la glo - ria, la hon - ra tam - bién;*  
1 Yours, Lord, is the glo - ry, and hon - or as well;  
2 Yours, Lord, the do - min - ions, and pow - er as well;  
3 To you I sur - ren - der my be - ing, my life;  
4 Glo - ry in the high - est, and on earth as well.



*tu - ya pa - ra siem - pre. A - mén, a - mén.*  
yours, Lord, now and al - ways.  
yours, Lord, now and al - ways.  
all, Lord, I sur - ren - der. A - men, a - men.  
Glo - ry, al - le - lu - ia.

## LEAVING TO SERVE

### BENEDICTION

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW 676

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

#### MEIRIONYDD

(The Voice of God Is Calling)

William Lloyd  
setting, Mahlon Balderston

## **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? Talk with Mark Finke or one of the pastors following worship or contact Mark directly at [volunteersupport@blcfairport.org](mailto:volunteersupport@blcfairport.org).

**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](http://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](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

**Church office hours:** 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](mailto:pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org) or [pastor.amy@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.amy@blcfairport.org).

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## **“Follow Me”**

We live in a culture of invitation. Television invites us to join complicated story arcs so that we feel connected to the characters. Commercials invite us to see their product as a new movement and invite us to join it. We are invited to join groups on Facebook and invited into chat rooms and blog responses. The number of social networks is exploding as we are invited into ever expanding ways to connect.

Invitation is an essential part of our walk of faith, but here we frequently see ourselves not as the invited but rather the one who is supposed to be doing the inviting. We can misuse invitation, maybe using the phrase “invite Jesus into your heart,” which often results in the misunderstanding that we are carrying a little bit of Jesus wherever we go. But today’s gospel (John 1:43–51) emphasizes not invitation as our call to others to join the walk of faith but rather Jesus’ invitation to us to follow him. Jesus’ invitation is not that we carry him with us but rather that we follow where he would lead. When Christ invites Philip to “follow me,” may we hear that invitation in our own ears.