


**Wandering
Heart** 
"Tune my heart"

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024



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

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 ~ *Ash Wednesday*

Prelude

NETTLETON

(Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing)

Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

setting, Charles Callahan

On Ash Wednesday we begin the season of Lent turning inward in order to tune our hearts to God. Before an orchestra plays together, they must all tune their instruments—the cacophony of this process may be very loud and create lots of dissonance, but it's a necessary step in the process of creating harmonies and melodies. And so, this Lent, how will you tune the instrument of your heart so that it aligns with God?

GATHERING HYMN	O Lord, throughout These Forty Days	ELW 319
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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 be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PSALM 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy,

blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you are justified in your sentence

and blameless when you pass judgment.

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,

a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;

therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,

and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and sustain in me a willing spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,

O God of my salvation,

and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,

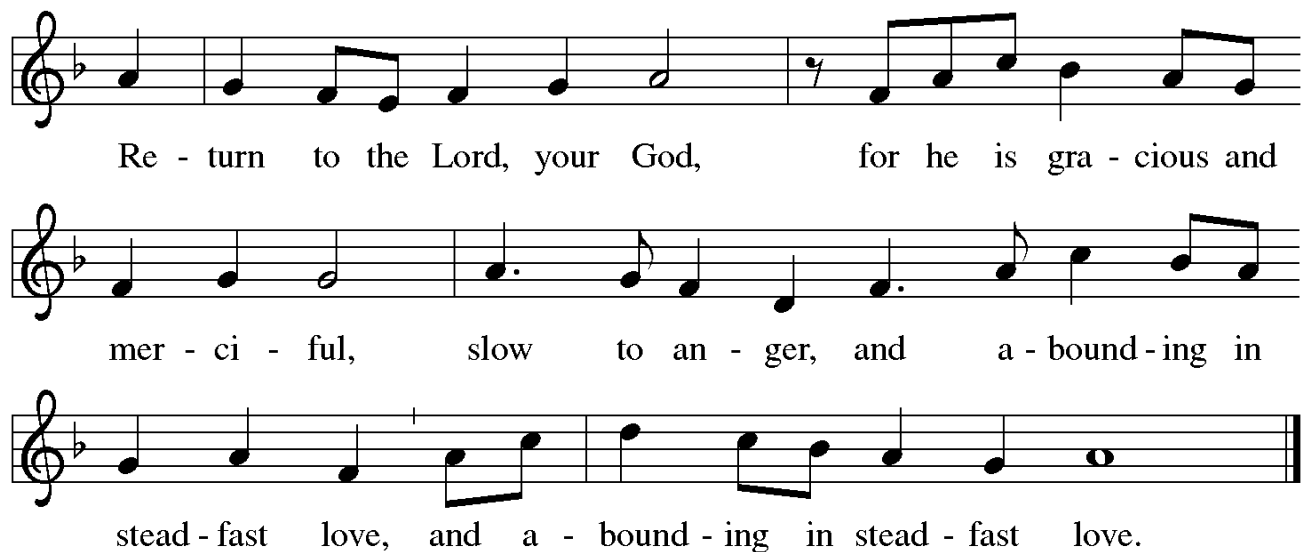
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount—I'm fixed upon it—mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

cleans the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If we say we have no sin,
**we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:
Lord, have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with
ourselves:
Lord, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God
in others:
Lord, have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife
and warfare:
Lord, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of
creation:
Lord, have mercy on us.

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:
Lord, have mercy on us.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and
grace:
Lord, have mercy on us.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People may come forward to receive the ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

During this time, please join in singing:

HYMNS	
Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am	ELW 814
There Is a Balm in Gilead	ELW 614

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the world God has made, and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Creator, you fashioned us from the dust and called us good. Your fingerprints remain all over us. Don't let us forget that we come from the earth, we will return to the earth, and every day in between is a gift from you. You give us this life in hopes that we would live it fully. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Creator, tune our hearts to hear your voice everywhere: in uncontrollable giggles, birdsong at the window, the sizzle of a homemade meal on the stove, and melodies buried deep in our souls. Open our hearts to experience your presence in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Creator, we remember before you all who are weary in body, mind, or spirit. We pray for those we name before you . . . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Creator, we give thanks for this beautiful life. Not because it is perfect, but because it is real. Journey with us, accompanying us as the path winds. Lift our heads to witness the majesty tucked around every detour. Help us to see your fingerprints and hear your voice calling us good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, renew a right spirit within us and fill us with your bountiful spirit in this holy season.

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

Noon Service:

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele
(Adorn yourself, o dear soul)

Johannes Brahms

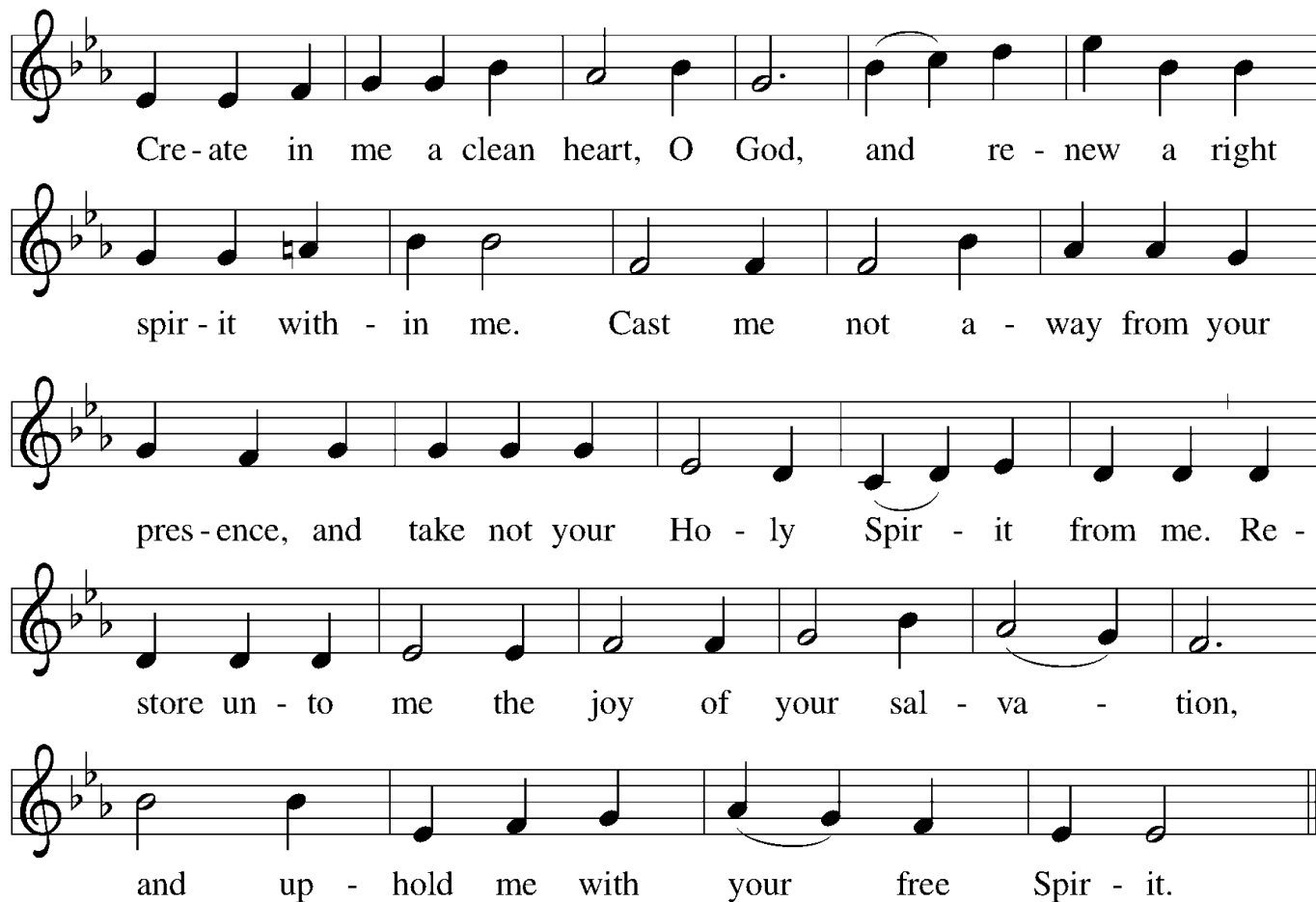
Evening Service:

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Psalm 51
Jim Jefferis

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider,

you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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**

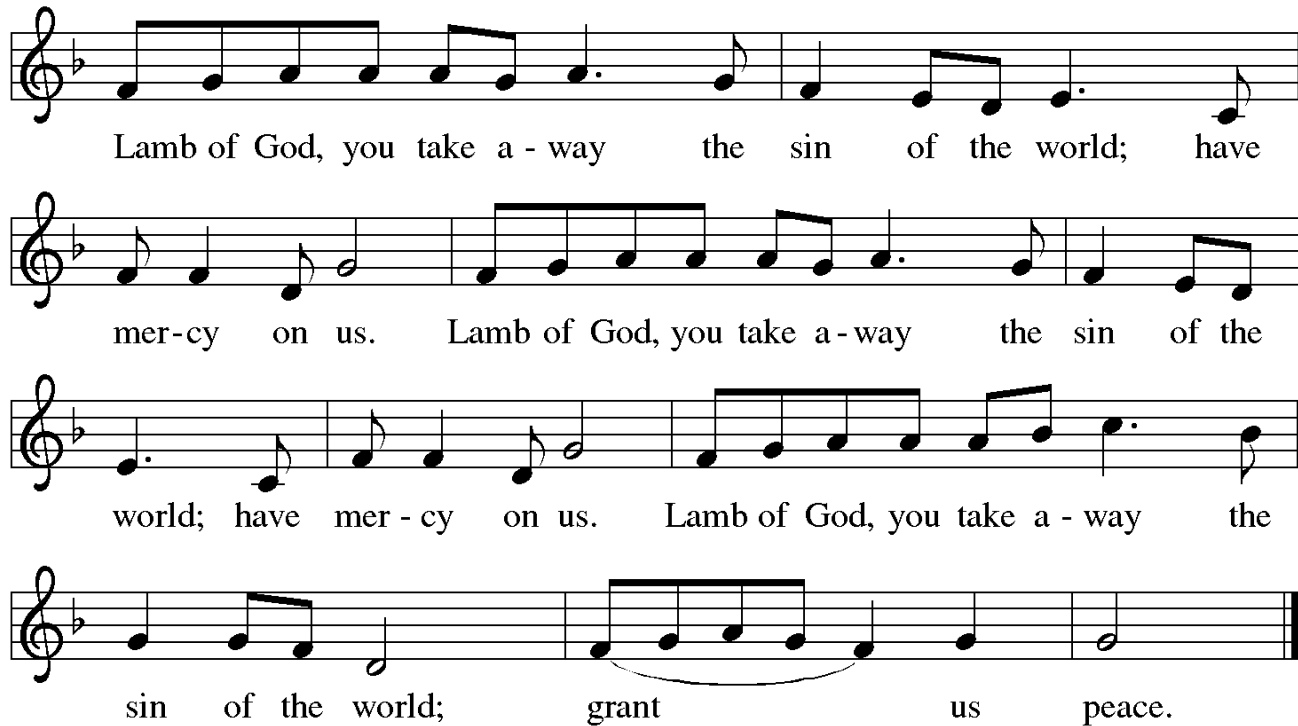
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come! Receive bread for the journey; a feast for wandering hearts.
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



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

Once We Sang and Danced

ELW 701

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

Beloved wanderer, you are called. In the name of † Jesus, you are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	ELW 326
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE:

THE ASH GROVE

(Sent Forth by God's Blessing)

Welsh folk tune
setting, Jeffrey Blerch

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

We welcome you to this solemn service of worship that begins the season of Lent. Each Wednesday throughout the season of Lent, a simple one-pot meal will be served each Wednesday from 6-6:45 pm in the fellowship hall, followed by worship at 7 pm. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the pastors – they would love to greet you personally!

Thank you to all those who participated in worship! 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.

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: 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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Hymn of the Day – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing: Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790

Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

About our Theme: Wandering Heart

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

Each week, a phrase from “*Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing*” serves as our theme. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, *tune my heart* to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for *songs of loudest praise*.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount—I'm fixed upon it—mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to *rescue me from danger*, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; *prone to leave the God I love*.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

(Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790)

In this series, we affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, seeks and wanders. In Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.