

*Sunday, February 11, 2024
Transfiguration of Our Lord*



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, February 11, 2024 ~ *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

PRELUDE

Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren
(Praise to the Lord, the mighty King of Honor)

Johann Gottfried Walther

LIGHT

Old American tune
setting, Warren Swenson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

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	When Morning Gilds the Skies	ELW 853
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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



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
 And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.



Yen la tie - rra paz pa-ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

assisted by BLC Percussion Ensemble

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

This Little Light of Mine

African American spiritual
arr. Mark Patterson

BLC Children's Choir
Susan DePasquale, piano

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: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So

they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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 Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Jesus on the Mountain Peak
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Jesus on the Mountain Peak

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus on the Mountain Peak'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 Je - sus on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in
2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro - claim - ing,
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph - ets

glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,
li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law
in its thun - der, Je - sus as the Son by name!
sing be - fore him, first and last and on - ly One.

join the saints and an - gels prais - ing.
shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing:
Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der: Hal - le - lu - jah!
All cre - a - tion shall a - dore him!

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 We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space,
receive our prayer.

#2 We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

#3 We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. 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: Carla, Art, Jenny, Beth & Rick, and Amy & Hans. Be with our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe as they follow where you lead. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

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

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

- Craig T, friend and colleague of Hans W-P who died on 1/29
- Elaine B, sister of Al B, a former BLC member, and friend of Bob and Wendy R, who died on 1/31
- Erich H, who died on 2/7

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Pastor Paula R, who has received a diagnosis of breast cancer and will be having surgery
- Mark F, who will have surgery on February 14
- Clarence G, father of David G, who is now in hospice care at home
- Wayne, father-in-law of Mary O, who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- Ginny S, who is recovering from surgery

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.

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Dazzling as the Sun

words, Delores Dufner, OSB
music, Gwyneth Walker

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY

Refrain



Take my life, that I _____ may be _____ con-se-crat - ed, 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.

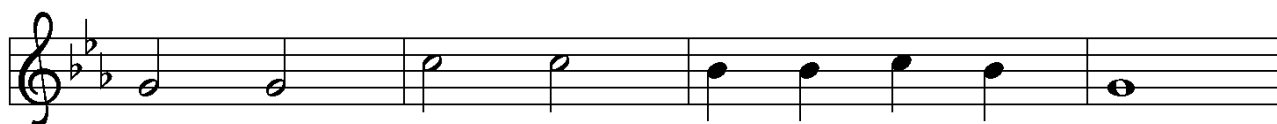
Lift up your hearts.

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.*



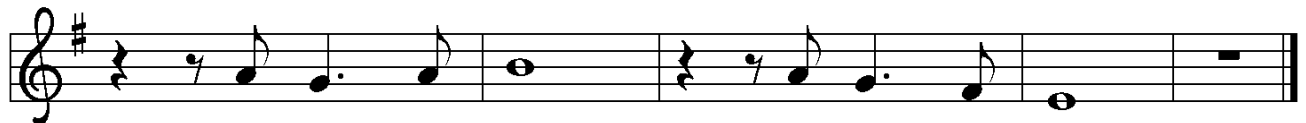
*Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .*



*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 HYMN
Beautiful Savior
Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 838
ELW 715

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	Alleluia, Song of Gladness	ELW 318
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hymn setting, Michael D. Costello
assisted by Richard DePasquale, trumpet

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Processional on "Hail Thee, Festival Day"
(SALVE FESTA DIES)

tune, Ralph Vaughan Williams
setting, Michael Burkhardt

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 The Rev. Lee Miller II, Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod, for his worship leadership and presence this morning! Bishop Miller began his six-year term on September 1, 2021.

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.

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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Alleluia, Song of Gladness Tune and Harmonization: John Goss Setting: Michael D. Costello
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Transfiguration: Amazing Then and Now

Imagine what would happen if someone from the days of Jesus were suddenly transported to our present. How would someone accustomed to walking everywhere respond to driving in a car at top speed, let alone flying in a jet? How would someone who spends their life depending on—at best—oil lamps for light respond to electric lights? It is fun to muse at how people might respond, as we reflect on how sophisticated we are.

Now imagine if the scene were reversed. How would someone accustomed to understanding much in the world around them respond to an event as otherworldly as the transfiguration? We understand volcanoes and the northern lights. We can explain lightning and thunder. We know about germs and disease transmission. So what would we do when confronted with something so amazing, awesome, and unexplainable?

The transfiguration is one of those ancient events that still puzzle us. What really happened to Jesus that day? Since we cannot go back to that time, we are left to speculate. We take stabs in the dark and make educated guesses, but at the end of the day we are left with a holy mystery to ponder.

Whatever happened that day, there is a timeless spiritual reality behind the physical details Mark gives us. God sometimes uses extreme and amazing methods to transform us when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit. God's spirit transfigured Jesus then. That same Spirit is still transforming people today. We don't have to explain first-century miracles to trust that God's transforming Spirit is timeless and at work within each of us today. We do not have to understand everything to see the beauty of God at work in the world, continually transfiguring us into the people we were created to be.