


Wandering Heart



*"Rescue me
from danger"*

*Sunday, February 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent*



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 25, 2024 ~ *Second Sunday in Lent*

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON
setting, Michael Burkhardt

Auf meinen lieben Gott
(In God, My Faithful God)

Johann Christoph Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As a new disciple, perhaps Peter wants to prove himself. Boldly, in the middle of a storm, Peter steps out of the boat to join Jesus who is walking on top of the waves. He, too, walks on water until the wind shakes his trust and he begins to sink. Many of us know what it feels like to be thrown off balance, to feel as if we're sinking. Maybe this looks like doubt, unexpected change, too-busy seasons of life, devastating grief, or distance from God. In this story, we empathize with the desperation Peter feels as he cries out, and we pray for God to save us when we sink

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us pray together: Gracious God,
there are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray. Amen.

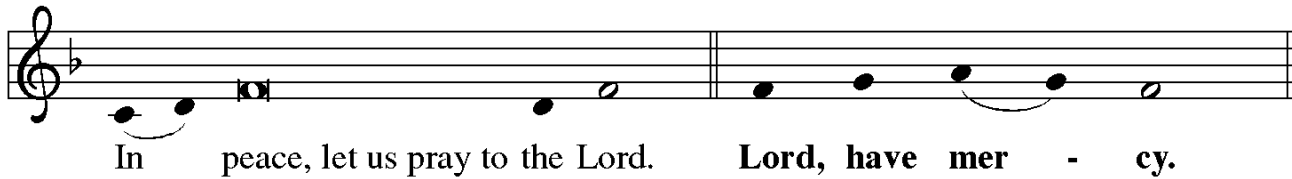
Hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, † forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

GREETING

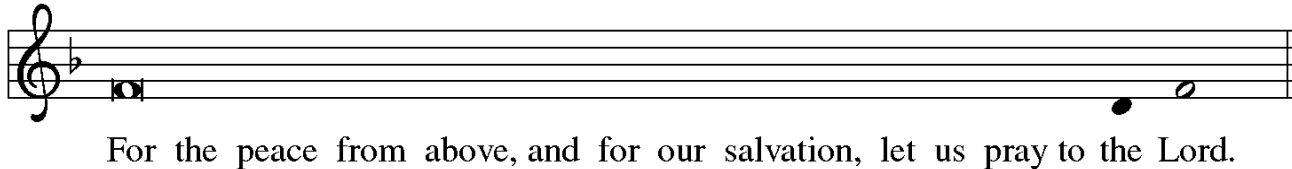
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

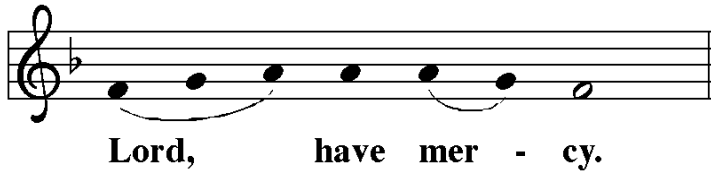
KYRIE



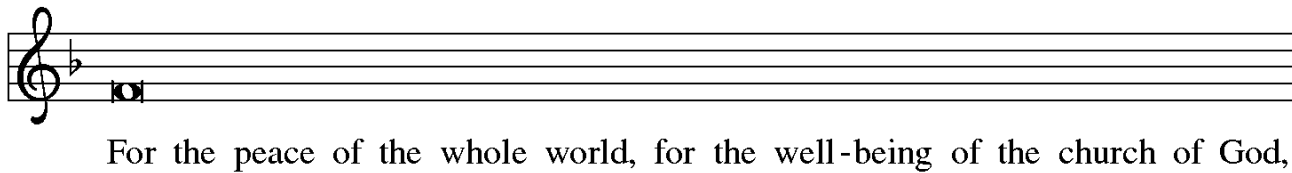
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



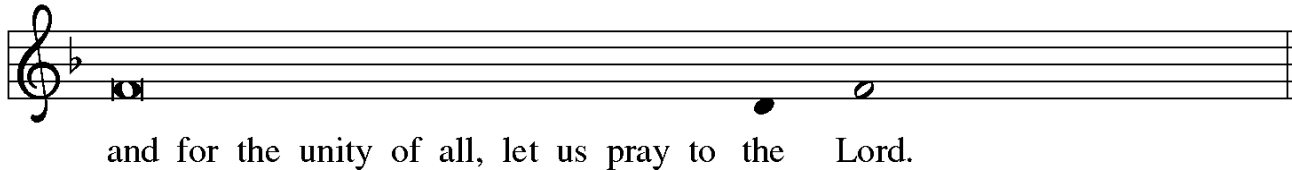
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



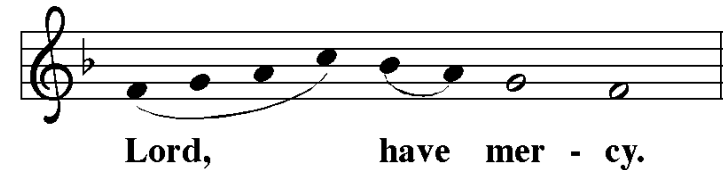
Lord, have mer - cy.



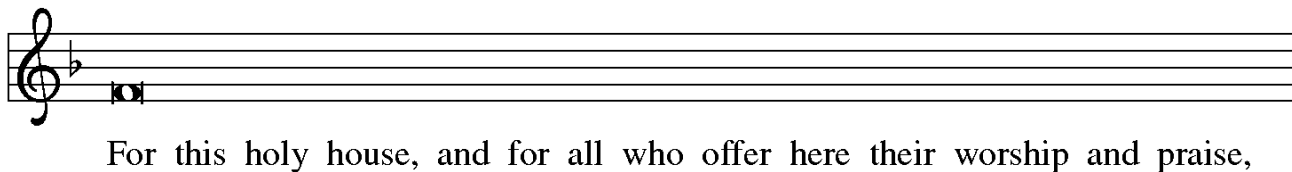
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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: Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;

and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

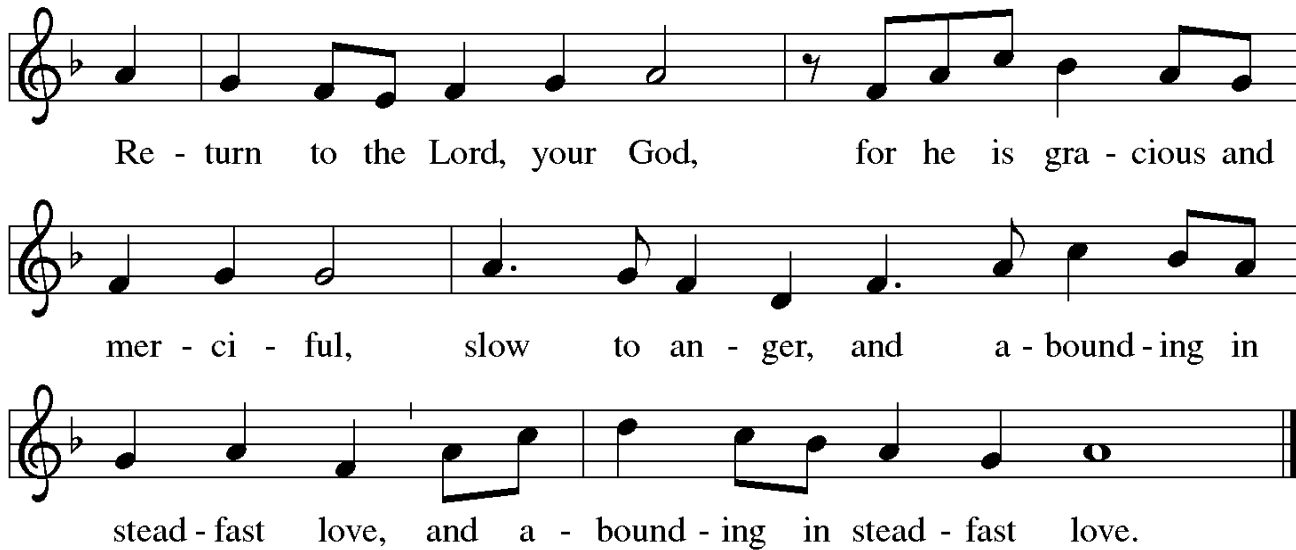
³⁰Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the LORD,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

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 14:22-33

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little

faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

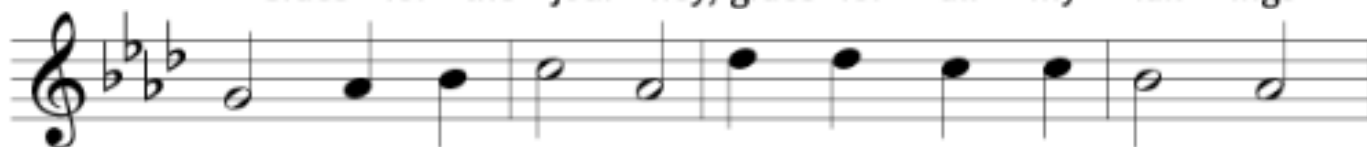
Into the Waters

Into the Waters

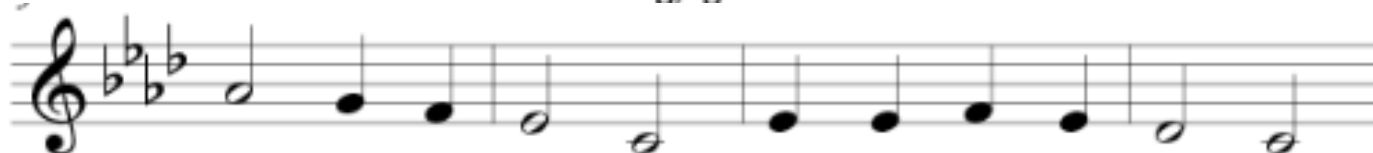
HERZLIEBSTER JESU 11.11.11.5



In - to the wa - ters, tim - id and un - stead - y
But then the winds shift and I let my gaze break
Safe in the boat I won - der where the fault lies
Grace for the jour - ney, grace for all my fail - ings



Bare feet find pur - chase in the wa - ter's ed - dies
Fear starts to drag me un - der - neath the lake's waves
Was it the storm or my own reck - less de - sire
Grace when I'm sink - ing, grace when storms as - sail me



Eyes fixed on Je - sus while the storm is ra - ging
In my dis - tress I cry out to my Sa - vior,
To have con - trol or prove my - self as a - ble
Faith in my - self and faith in God's pro - vis - ion



And waves are break - ing
"Save me from dan - ger!"
Rath - er than faith - ful
Not my am - bi - tion

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

#1 We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us. O God.

Your mercy is great.

#2 We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us. O God.

Your mercy is great.

#3 We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us. O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks that in baptism you form us into community. We pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Craig & Jenni, GerryAnn & Wayne, Kurt, Brendan & Lisa (Elizabeth), and Meghan. We also pray for the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us. O God.

Your mercy is great.

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:

- Jan B, especially his wife Judy, who died on 2/13
- Bryce, friend of Paige H, who died on 2/9

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Matt B, friend of Chris M, who has pancreatic cancer and is transitioning to palliative care
- Alexander G, who is recovering from an appendectomy
- Mark F, as he recovers from surgery
- Pastor Paula R, who has received a diagnosis of breast cancer and will be having surgery

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

Silence for individual prayer.

Hear us. O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us through all our wanderings, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

Be Not Afraid

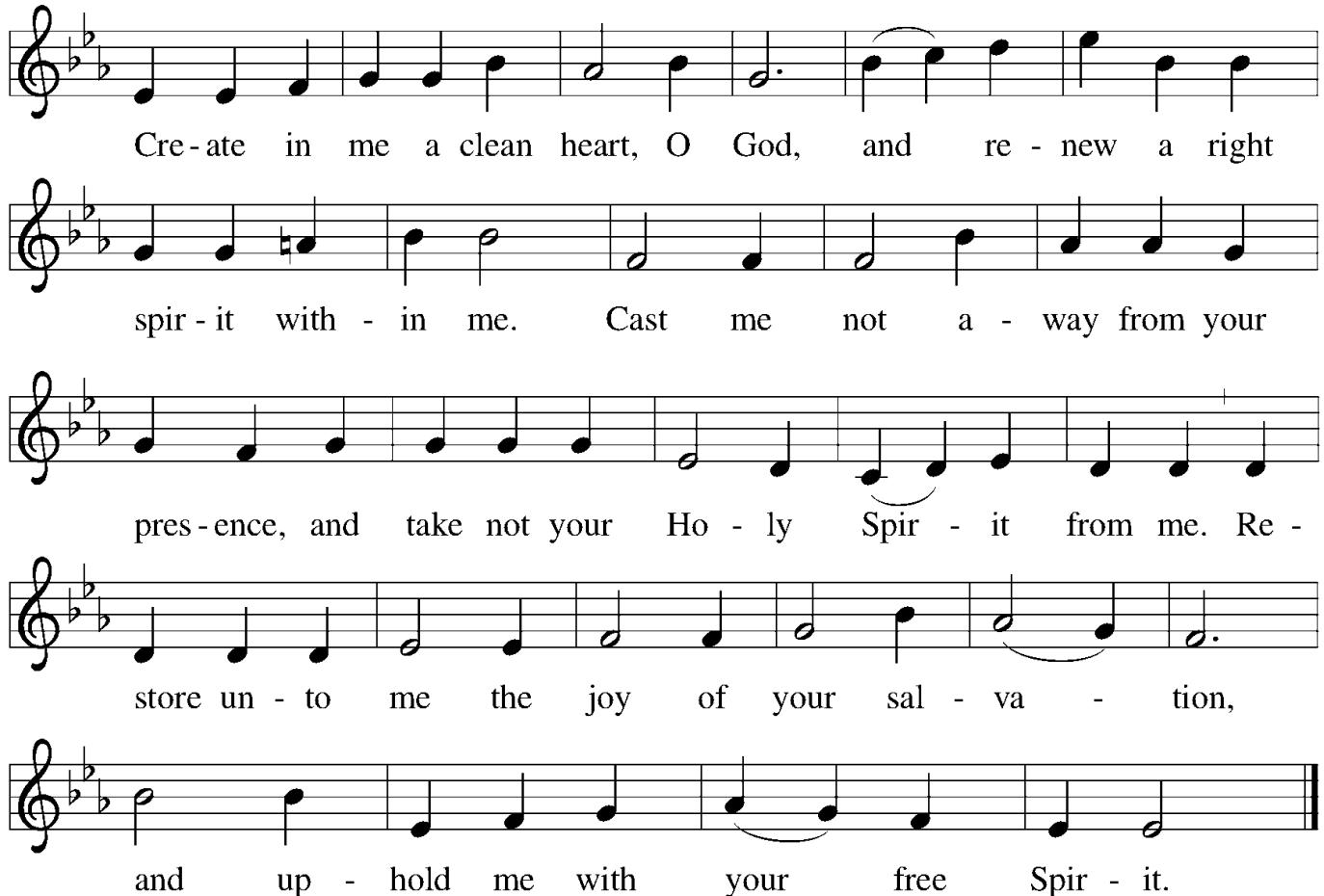
(based on John 14:1-3)

words, Susan Naus Dengler

music, Lee Dengler

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

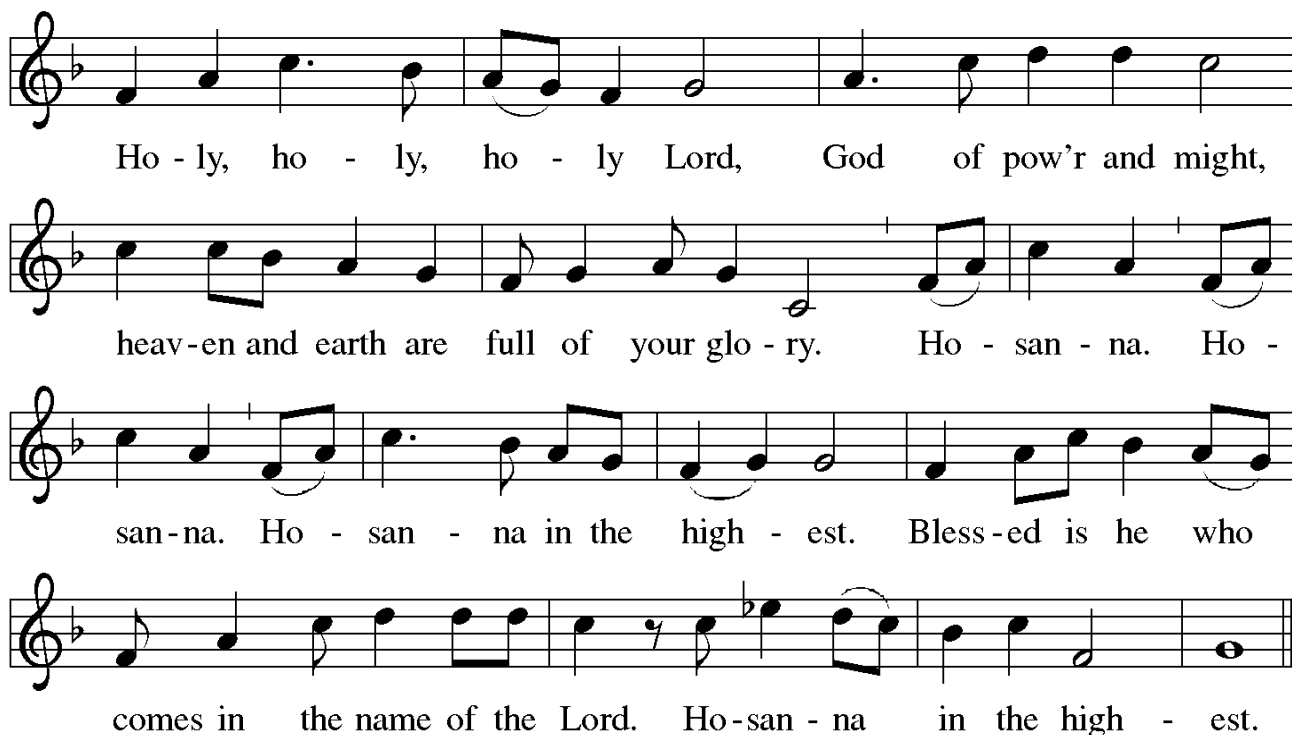
Lift up your hearts.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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**

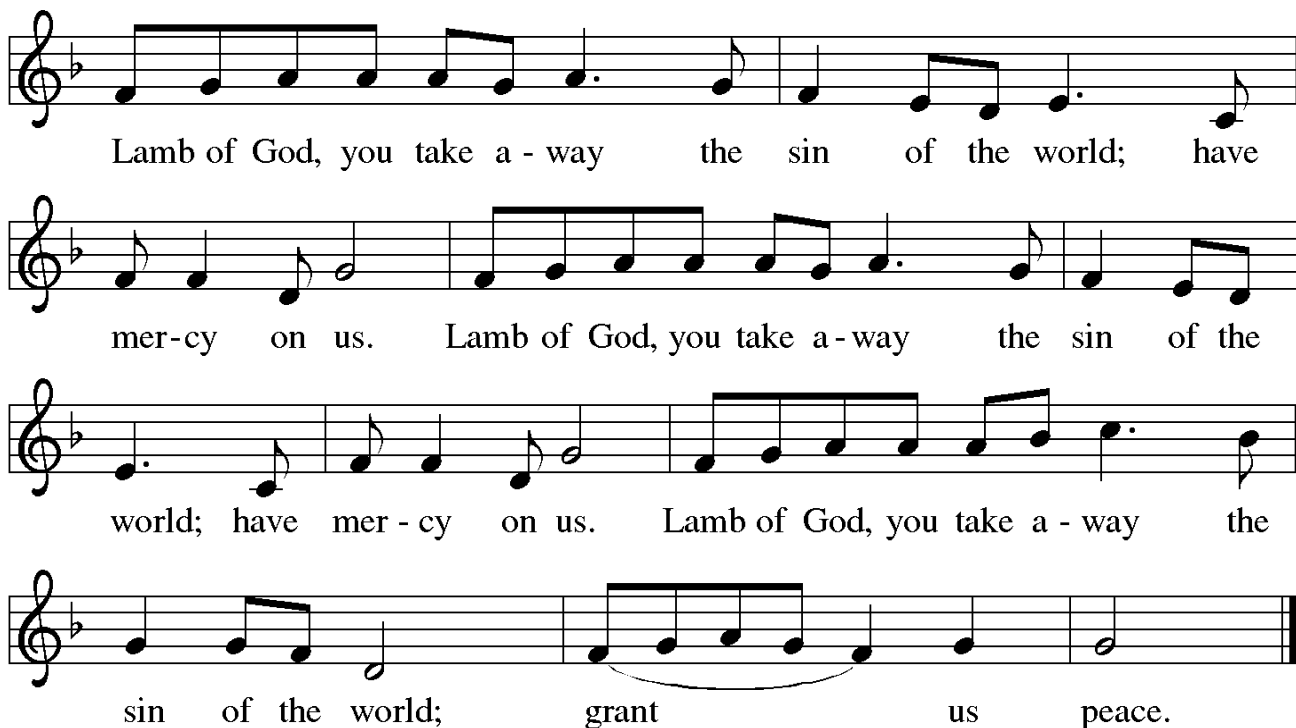
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW 767
ELW 763

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	Eternal Father, Strong to Save	ELW 756
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

FOUNDATION

Early American tune
setting, Wilbur Held

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

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Dave Wideman, cantor

Jane Morale, violin

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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Make a New Heart (Psalm 51), Music Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, ©2019 Worldmaking.net (ASCAP). Licensed via OneLicense.net, CCLI and Worldmaking.net

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.