

Wandering Heart



"Praise the mount"

Sunday, March 3, 2024
Third 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, March 3, 2024 ~ *Third Sunday in Lent*

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON
setting, Paul Manz

Prelude on “Kwake Yesu nasimama”
(Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand)

Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer
setting, R. S. Clare

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Praise the mount of God’s unchanging love. . . ” This lyric represents Peter’s mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In today’s reading, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, “This, I believe...” then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountain top moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us pray together: Holy God,

Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves. We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace. Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.

Friends, however you speak, God always listens with love and mercy. Rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. ✝ You are forgiven. Speak *that* good news with confidence. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN	Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand	ACS 1024
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Refrain

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of staves. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words in italics. The score includes a refrain and three verses of text.

Kwa - ke *Ye - su* *na - si - ma - ma,* *ndi - ye*
Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand. He's the

mwam - ba ni *sa - la - ma.* *Ndi - ye* *mwam - ba ni* *sa - la -*
sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my

ma, *ndi - ye* *mwam - ba ni* *sa - la - ma.*
life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.

1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the
2 It is not the work of my hands that has
3 When my days on this earth are done, and I

storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my
stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y

Refrain

flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.
fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

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.

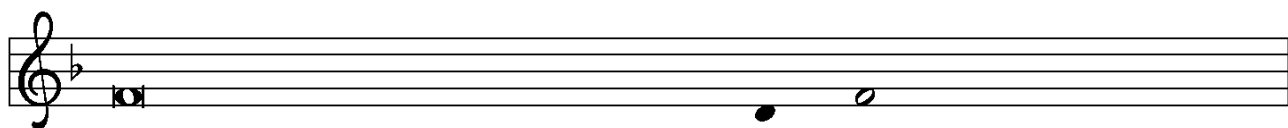
KYRIE

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.

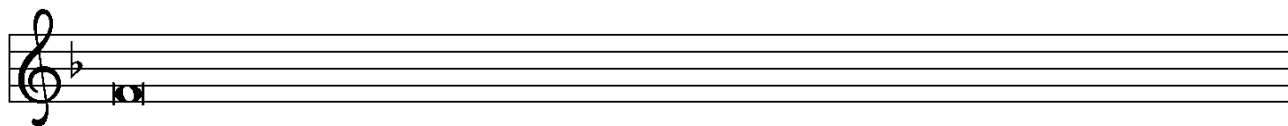
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



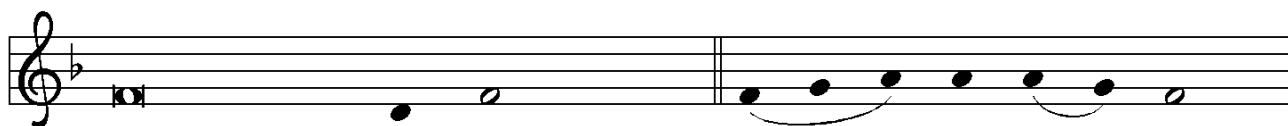
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

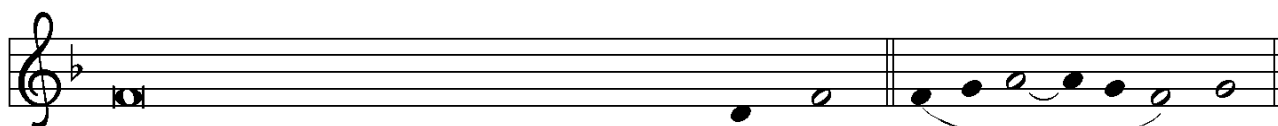


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through 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 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words;

their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;

the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

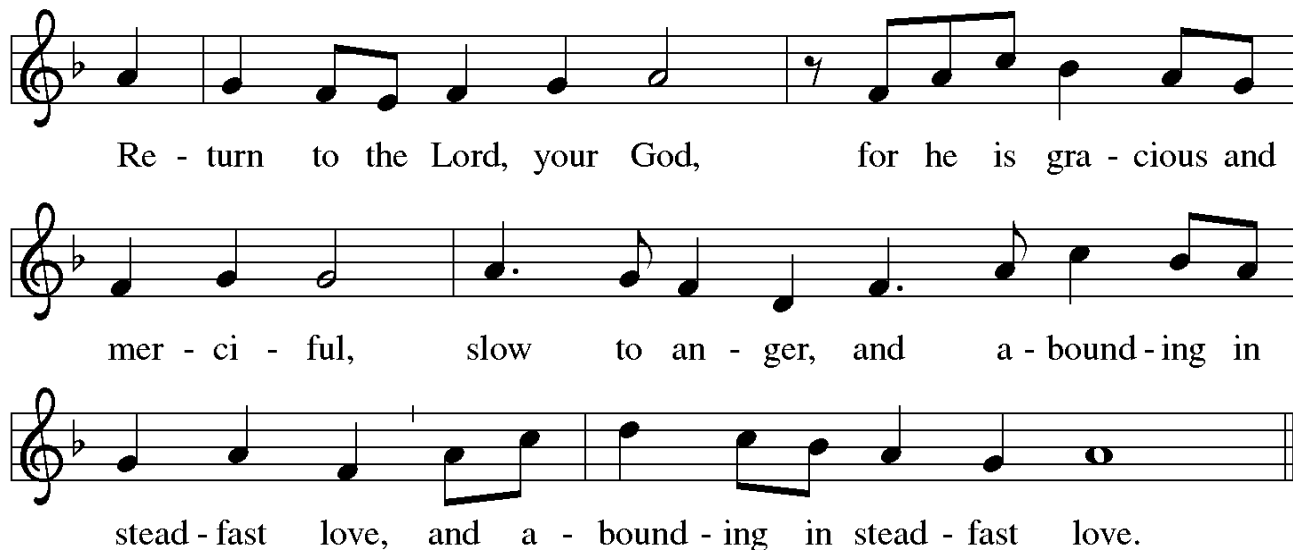
¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer..

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Here at the Peak

HAMBURG 8.8.8.8



Here at the peak I _____ clear - ly _____ see
 Here I pro - claim the _____ truths I _____ know
 Here my Cre - a - tor _____ stands en - fleshed
 Here at the peak you _____ clear - ly _____ name



All of the pie - ces _____ you've laid _____ out
 Be - yond the know - ledge of this _____ world
 In - fin - ite glo - ry _____ here con - tained
 Who you cre - a - ted _____ me to _____ be



And in this brief though time - less _____ peace
 Truths plant - ed deep with - in my _____ bones
 Hum - ble and rug - ged, _____ sim - ply _____ dressed
 I - den - ti - fied not _____ by my _____ shame



Such clar - i - ty oc - cludes my _____ doubts
 Brought to the light as gold un - earthed
 Sav - ior of all on earth to _____ reign
 But by the gifts you gave to _____ me

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 You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us. O God.

Your mercy is great.

#2 You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, Baptism, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, death in the family, or any personal loss. Hear us. O God.

Your mercy is great.

#3 You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in any land where peace is not the first option. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. 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: Dave & Jennifer, Christina, Annika, Marjorie, and Glen & Jane Morale. 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:

- Lisa H, sister of Pastor Lori N, who died 2/26/24

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
- Terri H, friend of Mike J, who has an aggressive tumor that is not responding to treatment

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

Your Will Be Done

words, Howell E. Lewis
music, J. Aaron McDermid

The Chancel Choir

Refrain to be sung at the direction of the choir director.

Your Will Be Done

Congregation Part

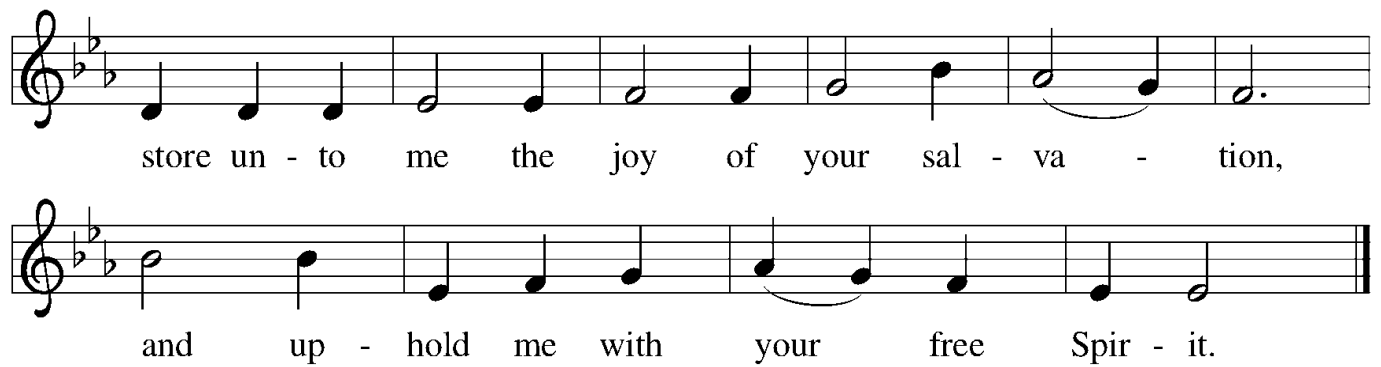


By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, Nev - er sil - ent day or night;
By the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing Peace to all and heal - ing light;
By the love that pass - es know - ledge Mak - ing all your child - ren one: _____
Fath - er, as in high - est heav - en, So on Earth Your will be done.

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 -



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.

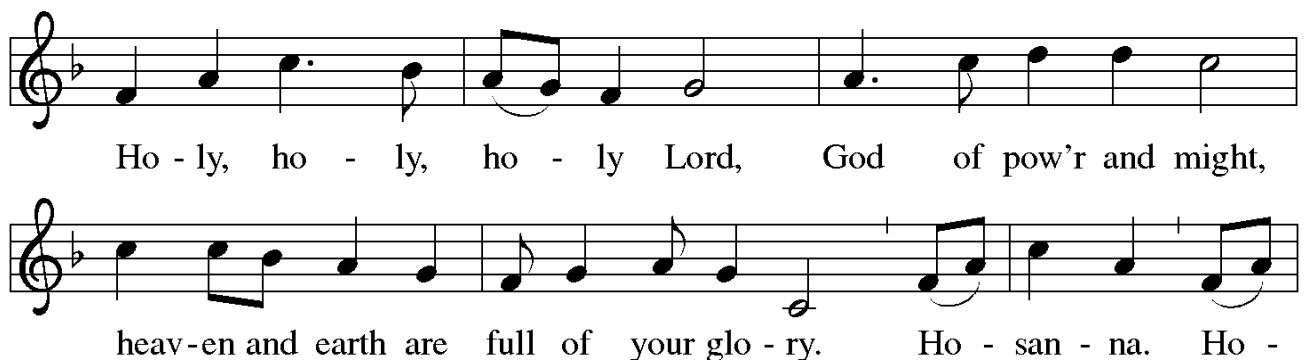
Lift up your hearts.

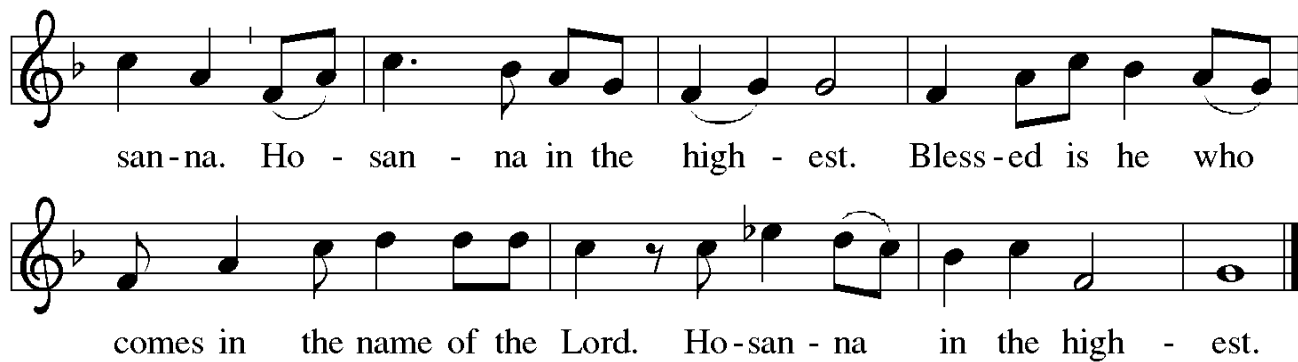
We lift them to the Lord.

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:





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

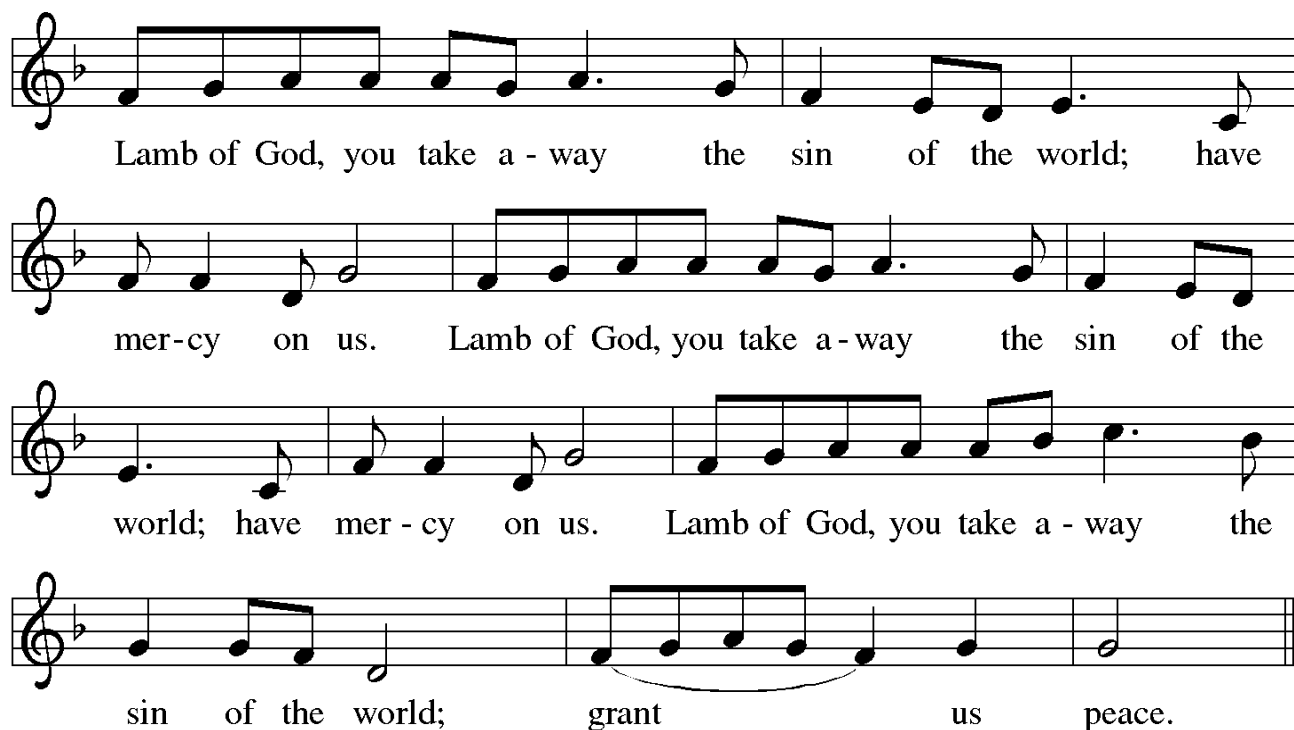
Come! Receive bread for the journey; a feast for wandering hearts.

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



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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." The word "grant" is underlined with a slur.

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

Break Now the Bread of Life

ELW 515

How Great Thou Art

ELW 856

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 Lord of Love, Behold Your Church	ELW 321
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan
(What God does, that is done well)
Chorale and Variations

Johann Pachelbel

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:

James Berner, cantor

Margie Gaul, percussion

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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[ASCAP Subsidiary Birnamwood Publications]

You Sought Me, Text: Anna Strickland, 2023, Music Joseph King, 1943, © A Sanctified Art, 2023

Your Will Be Done © 2006 Aaron McDermid, Tucson, Arizona 85747

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.