

Wandering Heart "And I hope"

Sunday, March 31, 2024
Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day



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 31, 2024 ~ *Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day*

PRELUDE

Erschienen ist der herrliche Tag, BWV 629
(The Splendid Day Has Now Appeared)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Concerto in C Major, BWV 595

[after a violin concerto by Prince Johann Ernst of Sachsen-Weimar]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We might expect that, after denying Christ, Peter would cower in shame – or perhaps even run away in an attempt to leave his past behind him. Instead, when he hears the news from the women, he doesn't dismiss them like the other disciples. He gets up and runs to the tomb. When he peers into the empty tomb and sees the linen cloth, he is filled with awe. Even after the biggest failures, even after the worst-case scenario has happened, can we run toward hope? Like Peter, will we keep going? Will we keep looking for God in our midst?

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Yesterday we thought death had won. Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today. Today we know that love has won. Today we know that hope is real. Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
 our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
 unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
 who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
 sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
 our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
 now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
 where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
 praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
 praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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

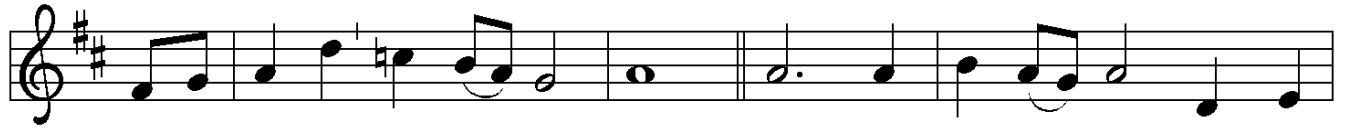
Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
 who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

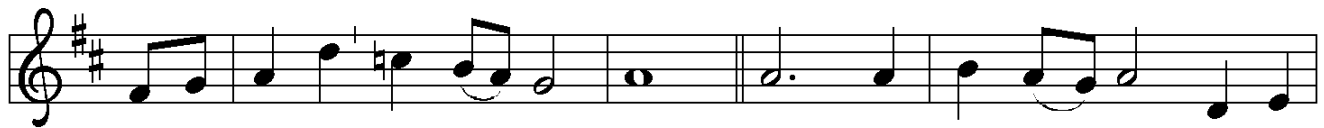


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

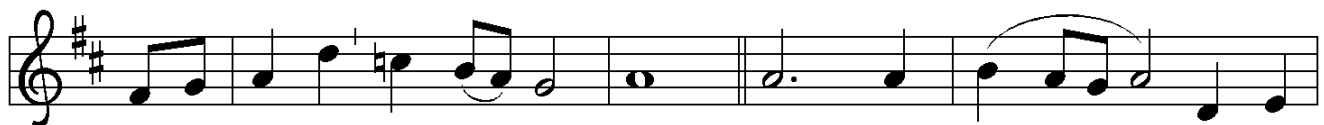


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

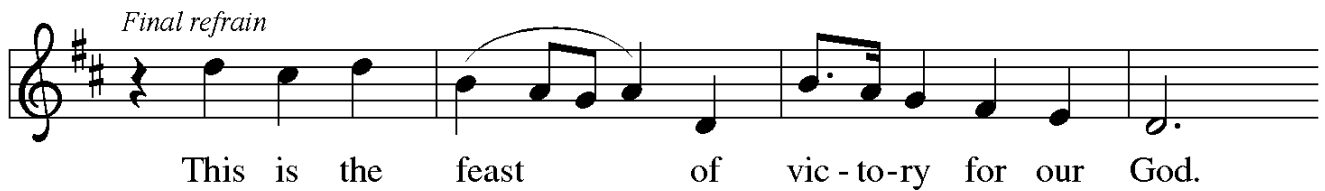
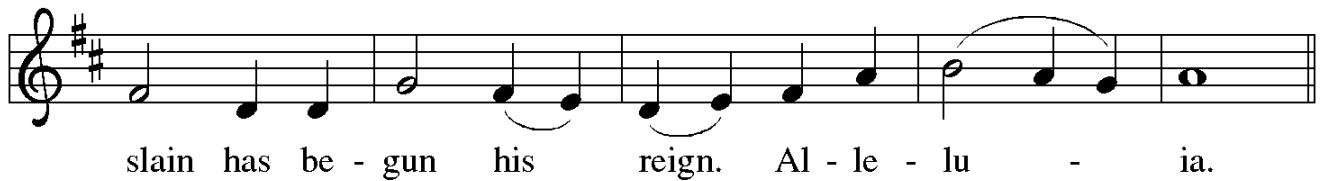
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 118:1-2, 14-24

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

¹⁷I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but

has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!	ELW 385
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Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the earth rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news

A brief silence.

#1 Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, you make all things new. Strengthen and renew the relationships we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Heidi, Chris, Donna & Jim, Adam & Lisa (Jakob & Noah), and Mia. Bring new life and growth to the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Breathe new life into those struggling in body, mind, or spirit.

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

- Abdullahi M, who was one of the (now adult) children from the Somali family that BLC helped resettle over 20 years ago
- Clarence G, father of David G, who died on 3/18
- Matt B, friend of Chris M, who died on 3/9

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- David M, brother of Ron M, who is receiving hospice care
- Joanne S, former Learning Links tutor, who is receiving hospice care
- Craig S, brother-in-law of Mike K, who is currently in the ICU
- Marcy A, who is recovering from anticipated surgery
- Jim C, who fractured his foot after a fall at home

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

Silence for individual prayer.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
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

Christ Is Risen!

Allen Pote

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



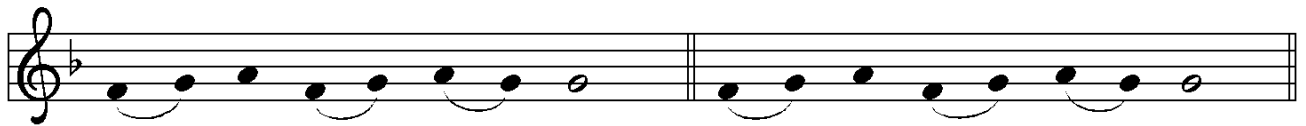
pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

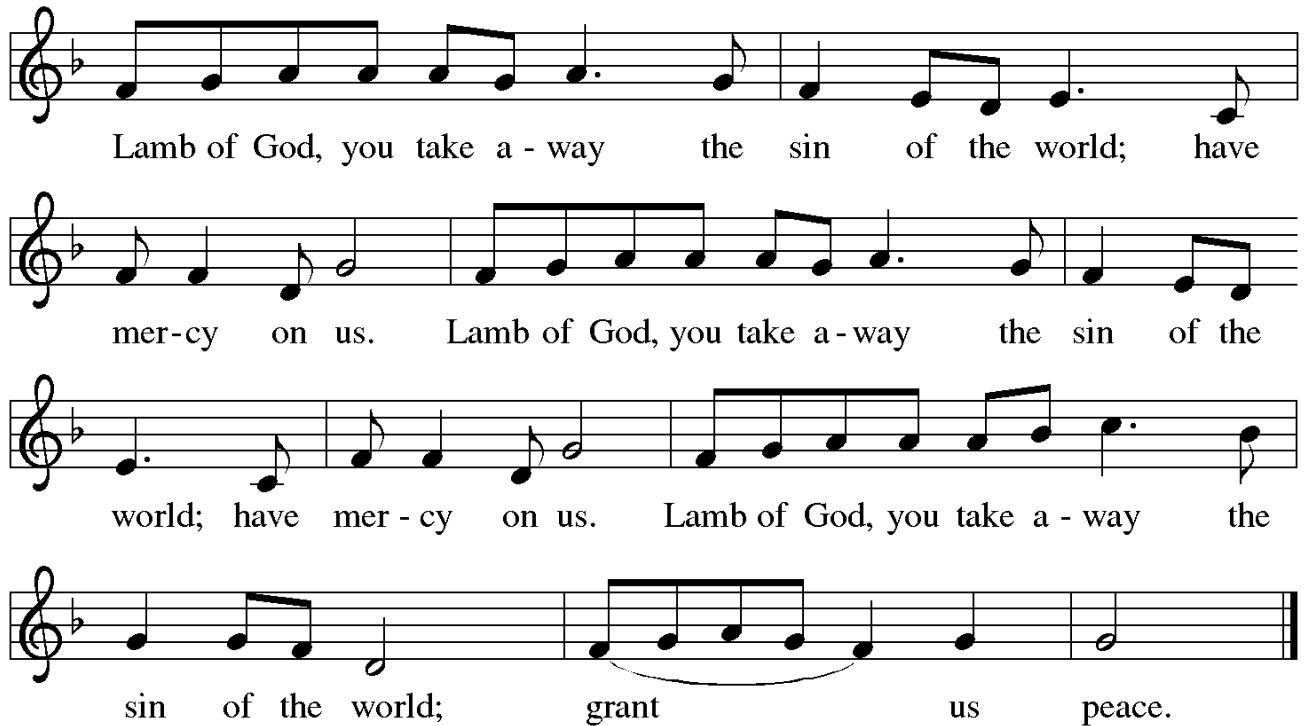
The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat.

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 HYMN

Here Is Bread

ELW 483

Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine,
Christ is with us here.

*Refrain: In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.
In this moment by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.*

Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace,
feast on Jesus here. *Refrain*

Here we are, joined in one,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
We'll proclaim till he comes
Jesus crucified. *Refrain*

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded



1 Day of de - light and beau - ty un - bound - ed, tell the news, the gos - pel
 2 Day of de - light and beau - ty un - bound - ed, tell the news, the gos - pel



spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ
 spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ



ris - en from the dead! Sing of the sun from dark - ness ap -
 ris - en from the dead! Sing now of mourn - ing turned in - to



pear - ing; sing of the seed from bar - ren earth green - ing;
 danc - ing; sing now the mys - t'ry, hope of our glo - ry;



sing of cre - a - tion, al - le - lu - ia! Sing of the
 sing with thanks - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Sing now of



stream from Je - sus' side flow - ing; sing of the saints in
 fast - ing turned in - to feast - ing; sing the Lord's fa - vor



wa - ter made ho - ly; sing of sal - va - tion, al - le - lu - ia!
 last - ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

That Easter day with joy was bright;
 the sun shone out with fairer light
 when, to their longing eyes restored,
 th'apostles saw their risen Lord!

O Jesus, king of gentleness,
 with constant love our hearts possess;
 to you our lips will ever raise
 the tribute of our grateful praise.

O Christ, you are the Lord of all
 in this our Easter festival,
 for you will be our strength and shield
 from ev'ry weapon death can wield.

All praise, O risen Lord, we give
 to you, once dead, but now alive!
 To God the Father equal praise,
 and God the Spirit, now we raise!

TABLE BLESSING

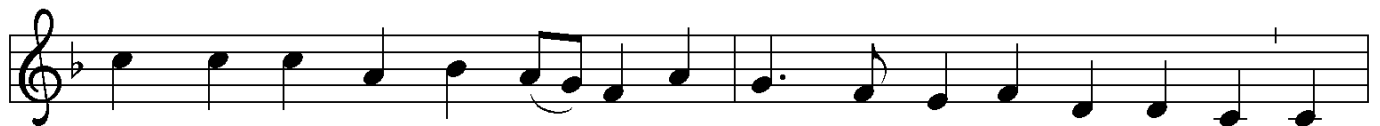
POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev'-ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds	ELW 367
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Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings,
therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Allegro assai vivace

from Organ Sonata I, op. 65

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Happy Easter!

We wish you and yours a blessed Easter celebration!

Worship: We worship each Sunday at 8:55 am (both in-person and livestream). Visit our website – blcfairport.org – for information on how to share in worship with Bethlehem!

Learn about upcoming events and activities... please sign-up to receive communication from Bethlehem, including Between Sundays (Mondays), the Weekly Star (Thursdays) and Ready for Worship (Saturdays). To subscribe, go to www.blcfairport.org and scroll down to sign up for reminders and special announcements. Contact the Church Office if you would prefer a hard copy of the Weekly Star.

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:

The Chancel Bells

Susan DePasquale, organ

Richard DePasquale, trumpet

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: The church office will be closed Easter Monday. 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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(Adapted by Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson and Pastor Abigail Zang Hoffman.)

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” (EASTER HYMN): [For 3-5 Octave Handbells and Organ with optional Trumpet, Timpani, or Brass Quartet];

Words: Charles Wesley; Arranger: Cynthia Dobrinski (ASCAP); © 1995 Agape (A Division of Hope Publishing Company)

“Christ Is Risen!”: Words and Music: Allen Pote; © 2011 Hope Publishing Company

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”: [SATB, Congregation, Brass Quintet, Timpani, Handbells, and Organ]; Text: Paul Z. Strodach;

Music: Newly composed by John A. Behnke (ASCAP); Copyright © 2011 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP) A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

Organ Sonata I, op. 65; Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy; © 1990 Novello & Company Limited

We give thanks for the Easter flowers and contributions supporting ELCA World Hunger and shares from Moll Farms for the Pines of Perinton distribution honoring:

Family and friends by Margorie Yeager

Ruth Hedin by her LYLAS

Our godchildren, Maddie, Izzy, Nate, and Micah by Amy and Hans Walter-Peterson

Our family by Ruth and Jeff Hedin

Loved ones by Sandy Goehle

Our grandchildren by GerryAnn and Wayne Westcott

Charles Forney by Kathleen Forney

Our BLC family by Julie Owen

Nancy and George Feth by Sue and Tom Dunn

We give thanks for the Easter flowers and contributions supporting ELCA World Hunger and shares from Moll Farms for the Pines of Perinton distribution in memory of:

Tom Rielly and Ben Dehmler by the Meetze family

Family and friends by Margorie Yeager

My parents by Kathy Moragne

Our parents, Jane and Rod Johnson and Myrtle and Howard Cook by Sherry and Jim Cook

Our parents by Jan and Howard Sharp

Dr. Christopher Fetzeck by Sue and Rich Towsley

Jim Peterson by Amy and Hans Walter-Peterson

Georgene Antell by Bill Antell

Connie and Erich Helbig by Nancy Fehse

Frank and Anna Steuerwald by Nancy Fehse

Margaret and William Walsh and Anna and Erich Maxa by Rolf Maxa

Bob Lohr by Judy Lohr

Janet and Olaf Erickson by Linnea and Scott Erickson

Leonard Calztoni by Linnea and Scott Erickson

Our very missed friend Ricki Schaefer by Cathy and Bob Anderson

We give thanks for these additional Easter flowers and contributions supporting ELCA World Hunger and shares from Moll Farms for the Pines of Perinton from:

Nancy and George Feth

Sandy Joyce

Lilita Lassen-Ward

We regret any omissions or errors made.

About our Theme: Wandering Heart

Since Ash Wednesday we have been 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.