

CREATED

TO

BE

BRAVE

*Sunday, June 16, 2024
4th Sunday after Pentecost*



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, June 16, 2024 ~ 4th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Largo

Antonio Vivaldi

from Concerto in Bb Major, "La Stravaganza," op. 4, no. 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have been created to be ourselves. Created by the Holy One. In July, ELCA youth and young adults, including five youth and two adult leaders from Bethlehem, will gather in New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. We celebrate their opportunity to be in relationship with others from across the ELCA. In solidarity with their journey, our Created to Be sermon series draws on the daily themes that will shape this year's gathering. We are created to be:

- ***brave**, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.*
- ***authentic**, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.*
- ***free**, to be transformed by the gospel.*
- ***disruptive**, to work for justice for all our siblings.*
- ***disciples**, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.*

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen. Blessed be God forever.

GATHERING HYMN

As Rain from the Clouds

ELW 508

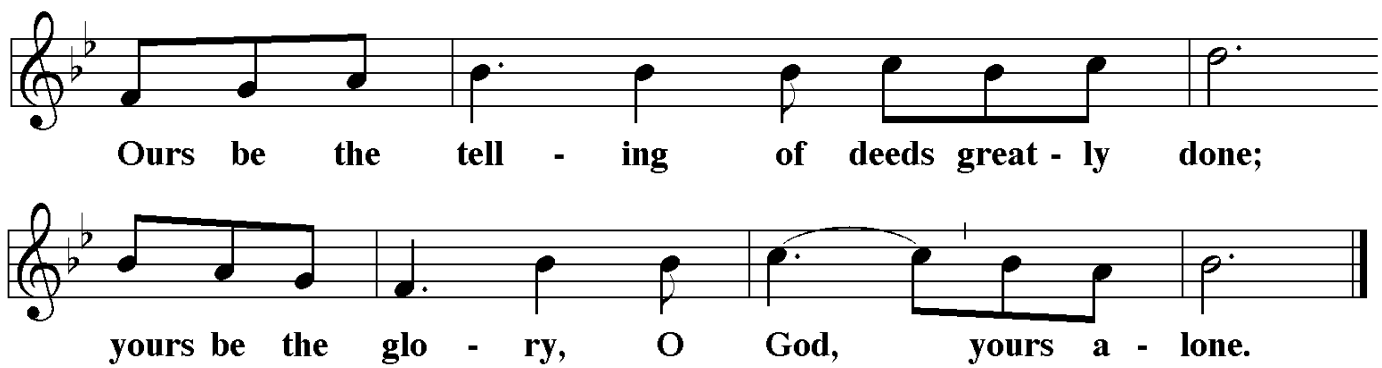
GREETING

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 - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord, thank you for calling us to follow Jesus by being vulnerable for the sake of the world. Help us to see how, in risking ourselves, we participate in the evolution of your kingdom. Show us where we are called to be vulnerable and help us to be brave enough to follow you. We pray this in the name of the one who become vulnerable to the point of death for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Psalm 27:1-3

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh —
my adversaries and foes —
they shall stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴²Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

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.

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

#1 Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#2 Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#3 You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

By the power of your Spirit, you nurture and bring growth. Bless those graduating this year, especially those completing high school: Olivia, Elizabeth, Katy, Sam, and Paige. Strengthen the connections we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Carrie & John (Aleiah & Eva), Laura, George & Nancy, Annette & David, Julie, Olivia, and Charlotte. Bring new life and growth to this congregation and to the ministry of our siblings in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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

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

- Diane K, mother of Kelly R, who died on 6/1
- Jan B whose ashes will be committed to God on 6/16

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

Silence for individual prayer.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of 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

Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Things

Native American melody (Dakota)

(LACQUIPARLE)

setting, Emma Lou Diemer

OFFERTORY



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



bles - sing. 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 dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, bread of life,

you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

God, you open wide your hands and feed all creation with your goodness.

Open us to receive all that you give us – your mercy, your grace, your love, your very self. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the 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

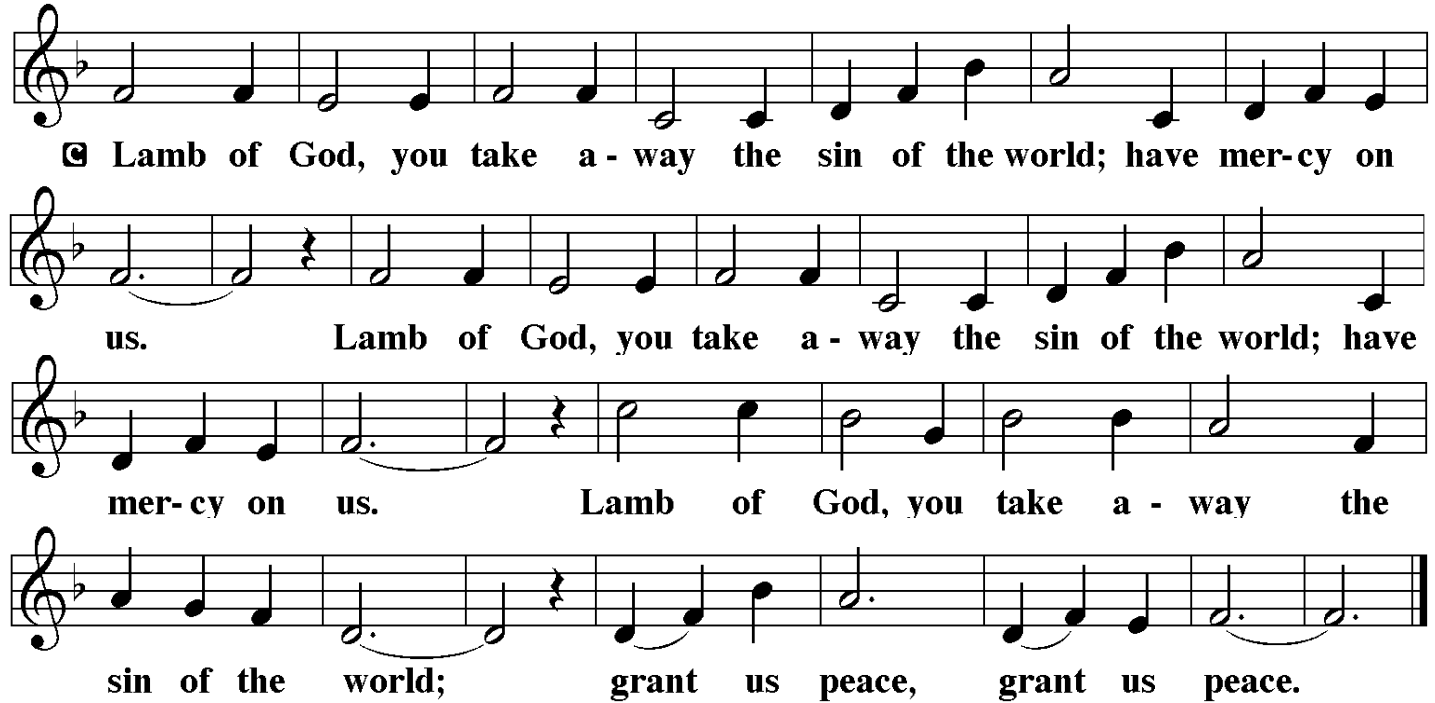
Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

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.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

This Is My Father's World

ELW 824

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

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 - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

LEAVING TO SERVE

SENIOR RECOGNITION AND BLESSING

BENEDICTION

The world often tells us that if you are afraid, you should stop.

God has surrounded us to courage to go.

The Creator God created you to live a full life despite its challenges

God created us in the image of boldness.

God knows your fears, doubts and weakness.

God has equipped us with all we need.

Go now and bravely step into your tomorrows. God is with you and will be on the other side. Your bravery comes from God who creates, † redeems and empowers you!

Amen

SENDING HYMN	God of Grace and God of Glory	ELW 705
--------------	-------------------------------	---------

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

setting, Paul Manz

(EIN FESTE BURG)

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

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.

Prayer of the Day and Sending and Benediction are adapted from the Getting Ready Resources for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.

From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43732.

Permission to stream and print the music in this service obtained from One License under Annual License #A-724002

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education

Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

"Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Things" Lacquiparle - Native American Melody (Dakota); Setting: Emma Lou Diemer

from *Eight Hymn Preludes for Organ* by Emma Lou Diemer © 1993 Augsburg Fortress

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Setting: Paul Manz © 1994 MorningStar Music Publishers; [ASCAP Subsidiary Birnamwood Publications]



Olivia Claire Finkbeiner

Olivia is the daughter of Annette and Dave and the sister of Julia and Charlotte. Following graduation from Fairport High School, she will attend Binghamton University as a biomedical engineering major.

Olivia plays the French horn, piano, and trumpet. She plays horn in the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and the Hochstein Brass Quintet.

Some of Olivia's favorite memories of BLC include singing in the choirs and being part of LYO. She also shares: "I enjoyed going to Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center and work camp in Pennsylvania. The work camp was a fun and fulfilling experience that I will never forget. I liked getting to know the other campers and helping to construct a ramp for a woman in need. Singing in the choirs and playing for the congregation let me express my faith and feel connected to God. I am thankful that I was able to create music with others and contribute to the church community."



Elizabeth Henry

Elizabeth's family consists of parents Kristina and Kevin, and sisters Allison, Josie, and Marilyn. She will graduate from The Norman Howard School, where she was a member of Student Council. She plans to attend Nazareth University where she will major in Nursing.

Elizabeth's interests are horseback riding, hip hop and tap dance, EMT Explorers group, and Best Buddies.

Elizabeth's favorite memory of BLC is participating in a sleepover at the church and attending a corn maze.



Kathryn Herrmann

Katy is the daughter of Jim and Renee Hermann and the younger sister of Josh and Robbie. Her grandparents, Victor and Donna Snyder, also attend Bethlehem.

Katy will be graduating from Pal-Mac High School, where she is a member of National Honor Society and a class officer. She plays in the jazz band and is on both the softball and tennis teams. She works at Long Acre Farms.

Following graduation, Katy will attend Genesee Community College, working toward an Associate Degree in Legal Studies. She will also play Division 3 softball.

Katy's favorite Bethlehem memory is camping with other BLC families and having outdoor worship on Sunday.

Paige O'Malley

Paige is the daughter of Jim and Alli and younger sister of PJ. She will graduate from Fairport High School.

Paige's school activities include serving as a Student Ambassador, Co-President of Drama Club, and Downstage Improv group. She is active in community theater and takes voice lessons. She works as a server at The Highlands of Pittsford.

Following graduation, she will attend Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) to earn a BFA in Acting with a minor in business.

Paige relates her favorite memory of BLC as "attending Camp Cory with the Children's Choir. I remember looking forward to it all summer. I made so many friends and was able to create closer friendships and memories with my existing friends. It was so much fun being able to sing and make music every day, while having plenty of time to swim and play games too, then having the opportunity to perform for our parents at the end."

Sam Higgins

Following graduation, Sam will be attending Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama with a Navy ROTC scholarship.

The Mystery of Growth

In elementary school, when children learn about plants they inevitably plant a small seed in a clear plastic cup and watch it grow. This helps as they learn the parts of plants: leaf, stem, roots. As we get older we get more sophisticated in our ability to explain the details of the plant and the growth we see, but on some level the growth itself remains a mystery. Why do some plants thrive and others fail? Was it the soil? Too much water? Too little? And what of those plants growing in the tiny cracks in between slabs of concrete?

The growth of faith is a similar mystery. We can do the best we can to provide good soil, in the form of teachers and mentors, parents and pastors. Still, the faith seems to take root and grow in some people and not in others. And then there are people raised in the worst conditions who grow to be strong people of faith.

Jesus reminds us that faith is a gift which comes to us from God. We cannot control it in ourselves, and we cannot control it in others. We can plant, we can water, and then we can sleep and wake until the plant grows. In the end it is God who brings the growth and the Holy Spirit who gives us faith. As people of God we are called to be good soil. As people of God we are called to trust that God will do what we cannot. Faith will grow, and the church will flourish, not because of our grand schemes and plans, but because God will have it no other way.