

CREATED

TO BE

AUTHENTIC

Sunday, June 23, 2024
5th 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 23, 2024 ~ 5th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Offertoire

from *Heures mystiques*, vol. 2, op. 30

Leon Boëllmann

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.*

Attention kids: You are welcome to an activity bag or clipboard with paper and crayons to use during worship! They are located near the entrance to the sanctuary.
Ask an usher if you need help!

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.

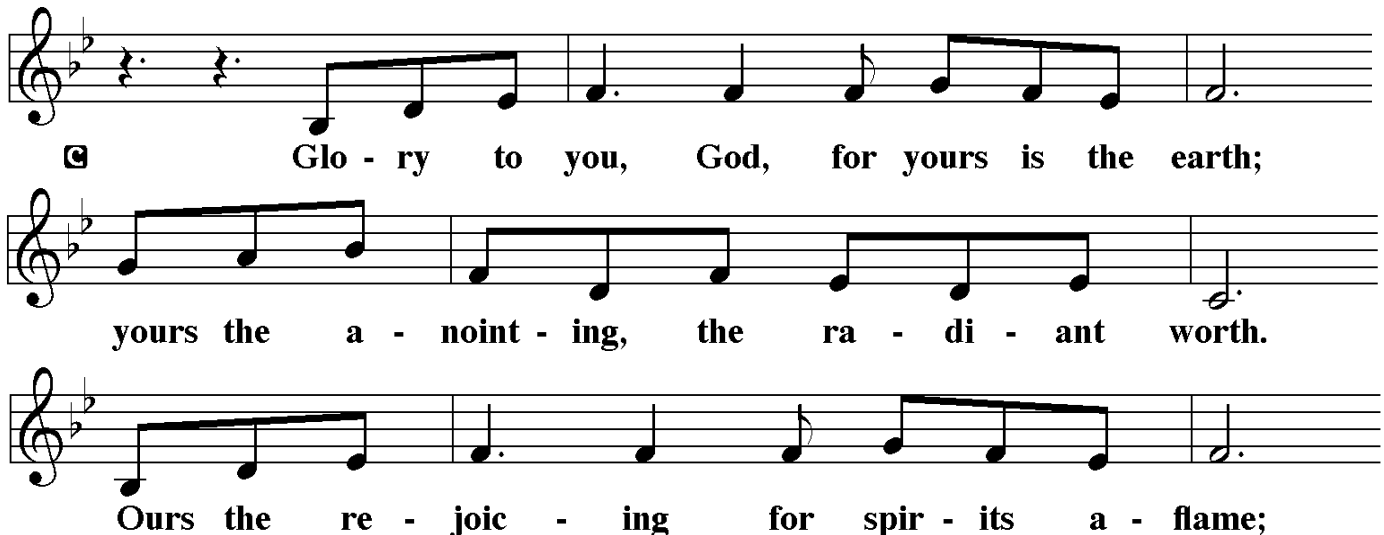
Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen. Blessed be God forever.

GATHERING HYMN	What God Ordains Is Good Indeed	ELW 776
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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 - 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 God, you invite us to be true to who you created us to be. Help us to see how, in being honest about who we are, we might inspire others to be honest about who they are. Cultivate in us the ability to be our authentic selves without apology, because we are your creation, meant to be seen as a reflection of you. We pray this in the name of the one whose authenticity we follow, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as

punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

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 You spoke creation into order from the chaos of the swirling deep. May your name be praised by rivers and seas, wetlands and waterfalls. Secure clean water for all people and protect water sources from contamination or exploitation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#2 Equip your faithful people to approach this world with a sense of wonder. Make your church a safe place to explore big questions, troubling doubts, and honest laments. Humble our hearts to repent of the ways that communities of faith have inflicted pain or trauma. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#3 Embolden your people to reach out to friends and strangers who need to hear your saving word. Give us the words that will touch them in such a way that your love will abound. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

By the power of your Spirit, you nurture and bring growth. Strengthen the connections we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Cathy & Mark, Jim, Kathleen, Astrid, Hunter, Mark & Lisa, and Preston. 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

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Kristin C, daughter of Jan and Howard S
- Dave M, recovering from anticipated surgery on 6/21
- Gary P, brother of Donna K, who is receiving full-time care at home due to complications from COVID-19 and dementia

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

He Will Hold Me Fast

words, Ada Habershon / alt. words, Matt Merker
music, Matt Merker

OFFERTORY



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



bles - 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 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

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

ELW 755

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

ELW 759

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

BENEDICTION

The world often tells us that we are only good enough to be a supporting actor.

God has created us in the image of love.

The Creator God created you so that you might live into the fullness of your own story.

God has created us in the image of truth.

Just as you are – fully, joyfully, authentically you – God has created you.

God had created us in the image of joy.

Go now and live your true love and joy, so that others may witness the light of
✠ Christ in you and be inspired and encouraged to be themselves.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine	ELW 774
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jacques Lemmens
arr. David Paxton

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Sarah Morrissette, soprano

Dave Wideman, baritone

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.

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"Offertoire" from *Heures mystiques*, vol. 2, op. 30; Music: Leon Boëllmann © 1996 by Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. (ASCAP)

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Who, Then, Is This? Our Only Help.

As the disciples set out together in the boat with the sleeping Jesus in Mark 4:35–41, a great windstorm arose so that the boat became swamped. As we set out in mission together in the ship of Christ's church, how many storms arise! The elements of chaos still seem to wreak havoc in our lives, communities, and in the church—and we become terrified. Though Christ is present the disciples and we ourselves begin to doubt his care and power: “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” His presence seems far too weak to help us, though it is exactly in this vulnerable weakness that Christ shows his almighty power. Jesus wakes at the disciples' cries and rebukes the wind and waves—they are no match for his command. The terrifying calm that follows demonstrates his divine power over all the chaos that continually threatens us. And we find ourselves awe-struck before the living God who has met us in our weakness and yet overcome it. The Christ who sleeps in the boat is the same Christ who hangs on the cross, seemingly helpless. Yet the helpless one is none other than the all-powerful Lord God. “Who then is this?” but the Lord of all! The God who in the beginning brought order to the chaotic face of the deep now in Christ brings peace as we face the storm. So why are we afraid? Have we still no faith in this helpless Lord who is our only help?