

CREATED

TO BE

DISRUPTIVE

Sunday, July 7, 2024
7th 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, July 7, 2024 ~ 7th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

FOUNDATION

Early American hymn
setting, Wilbur Held

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

How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796

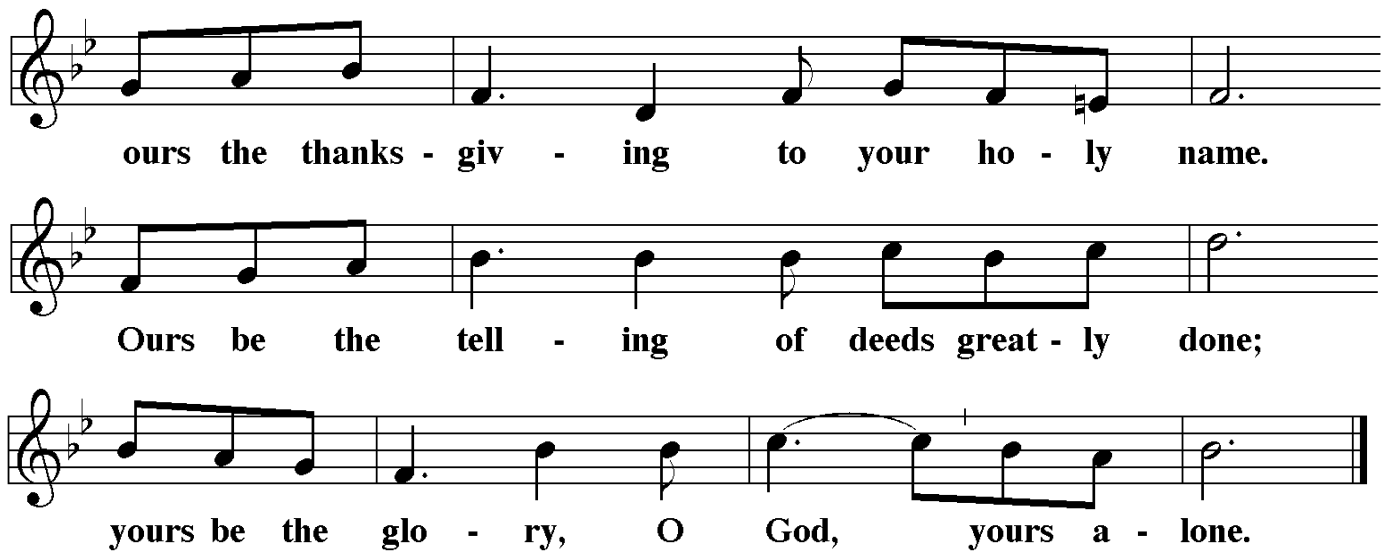
GREETING

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 God, you give us discomfort so that we will know when things are not in alignment. Let that discomfort spur us to into holy action. Allow your Holy Spirit to create in us the sense of urgency we need to act. Give us the clarity to know when you call us to be disruptive for the sake of your kingdom and our neighbors. We pray this in the name of our Savior, who disrupted this world to save it, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

¹ [A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.² And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³ He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God."⁵ Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them. 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 21:12-17

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them, "It is written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer';
but you are making it a den of robbers."

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself?'"

¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

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 Welcoming God, in your presence strangers become companions and enemies become neighbors. Open our doors to those we have so easily shut out, particularly people who are different from us or who are marginalized by church or society. Bring your presence to those who shut us out, to those who see us as different and to those of us who are marginalized. Kindle compassion in all hearts. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#2 Merciful God, you speak and the nations listen. Open those who govern to the cries of all who journey with no food or shelter, particularly people fleeing violence, those seeking freedom, and those in search of community. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

#3 Life-giving God, your fingers trace the heavens and your hands mold the earth. Where there is drought, bring nourishing rain. Where there is devastation from fire or flood, bring relief. Sustain the well-being of every living thing. 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: David & Marsha, Sandy, Ken (Jillian), Cathy, and Marty. 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 lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- the safe arrival of Samuel Irving T, son of Kristen C and Dan T, and grandson of Howard and Jan S, born on 6/18

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

- John P, grandfather of Sarah M, who died on 6/30

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Morey R, who fell and is now recovering from surgery on 6/29
- Katy H who was bitten by a dog and is now home recovering after surgery on 6/29
- Lisa R who fell and broke her pelvis and is hospitalized for pain management
- Maeve, granddaughter of Fred and Rory S, who is dealing with several health challenges

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

Intermezzo in A Major, op. 118, no. 2

Johannes Brahms

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 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 HYMN
 Break Now the Bread of Life ELW 515

COMMUNION HYMN
 Build a Longer Table ACS 1062

Build a Longer Table

1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,

feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.

Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.

Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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 church throughout history has been a place of change.

You gave the world Jesus to show us your way.

We gather together in community because we have hope for God's future.

We are called to be hope for the hopeless.

There are times when we are told we are too much.

We are called to resist the temptation to be silent.

Beloveds, you are not too much.

Fear is a liar that silences the reformer.

Go now, assured that the † Spirit of the living God will meet you along the way and accompany you through your days.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

I've Got Peace Like a River

(with *Standin' in the Need of Prayer*)

African American spiritual

arr. Mary McDonald

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Olivia Finkbeiner, piano

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 one of the pastors following worship or send an email to volunteersupport@blcfairport.org and we'll follow up!

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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"Build a Longer Table" Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984; Music: NOEL NOUVELET, French carol; Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com.

"Foundation" Music: Early American hymn; Arranger: Wilbur Held; © 1984 Concordia Publishing House

"I've Got Peace Like a River" – with *Standin' in the Need of Prayer*; Music: African American spiritual; Arranger: Mary McDonald

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Ready to Bear Witness

Where does power come from? The usual answers—family connections, reputation, possessions—are all rejected in a reading from Mark 6:1–13. Jesus’ power is not only independent of his family connection—it is hindered by it. While it isn’t entirely clear why the people of Nazareth reject Jesus, the fact that they do may sound familiar to us. How often do we find exactly what we expect when we encounter something new? How open are we, really, to the possibility that God’s power might come from an unexpected corner? The first part of today’s reading suggests that even miracles take two things: both divine power and willing witnesses.

Perhaps Jesus sends his disciples out stripped of their possession precisely so that *they* are ready to witness to God’s power in a new way. They go without any of the usual trappings of security or wealth, with no guarantee that their ministry will be received. In fact, Mark reminds us a few verses later (Mark 6:14–28) just how hostile the world can be to receiving the proclamation of the kingdom of God. John the Baptist will lose his life because of Herod’s resistance to repentance. Nevertheless, Jesus’ teaching continues to astound, and the word continues to spread.

The willingness to bear witness, even when we are not certain of answered prayer or mission success, is a theme that unites all this day’s readings. Even Psalm 123, in its simple gaze of faith, invites us to let go of results in favor of relationship. Paul’s sometimes confusing logic about spiritual experiences becomes clear as he sums up God’s word to him: “My grace is sufficient for you . . .” (2 Corinthians 12:2–10). That is a powerful word, which can make almost any experience an opportunity to witness to Christ’s power.