



*Sunday, August 18, 2024*  
*13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)  
The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

**Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

PRELUDE

Canon

Georg W. Chadwick

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.*

**GATHERING**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**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

Voices Raised to You

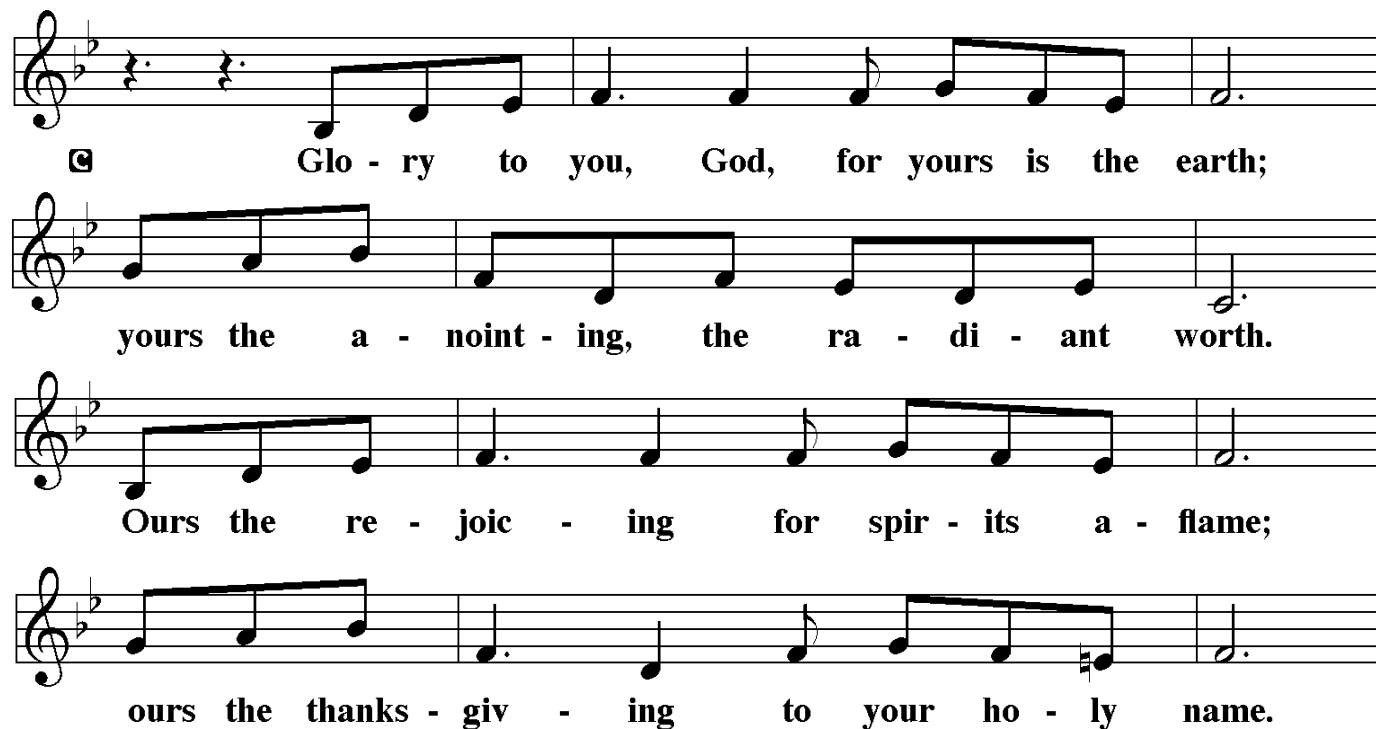
ELW 845

### GREETING

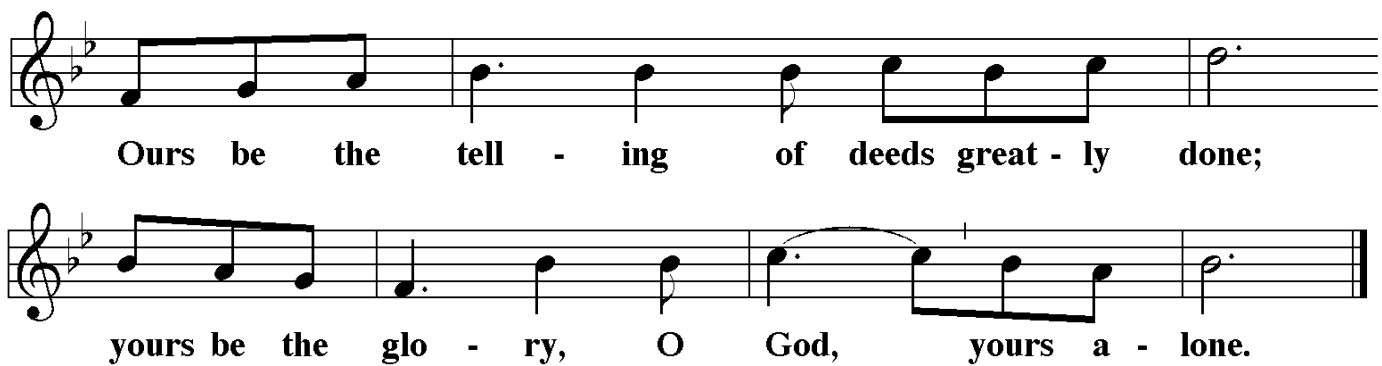
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**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. Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

*Christians have seen in the Woman Wisdom poems a metaphor for Christ, who serves up a meal of bread and wine and calls us all to live in the way of insight.*

<sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house,  
she has hewn her seven pillars.

<sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.

<sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls  
from the highest places in the town,

<sup>4</sup>“You that are simple, turn in here!”  
To those without sense she says,


<sup>5</sup>“Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.

<sup>6</sup>Lay aside immaturity, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight.”

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 John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

*This Sunday's passage from John 6 is illumined by the readings from Proverbs and Ephesians. The stark vocabulary of the gospel can go down well when at the table we eat a piece of good bread and drink a swallow of fine wine.*

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to [the crowd,] "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup>"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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.*

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

#1 Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#2 Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect and conserve the earth. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#3 Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. 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: Abigail & Kevin (Isabel, Madeleine, Micah, Nathaniel), Anne & Dan, Catherine, David, and Fran. 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.**

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you are near to all who call upon you.

*We pray for those who serve, especially:*

- Zaii M as she begins basic training at Naval Station Great Lakes

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

- Ed B, who died after a very short illness with acute leukemia on August 3 and will be laid to rest on August 22

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Jodie, daughter of Ginny and Dale S, who is recovering from surgery

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](http://blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry).*

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Lord, Be Glorified

Bob Kilpatrick  
arr. Mark Hayes



## 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

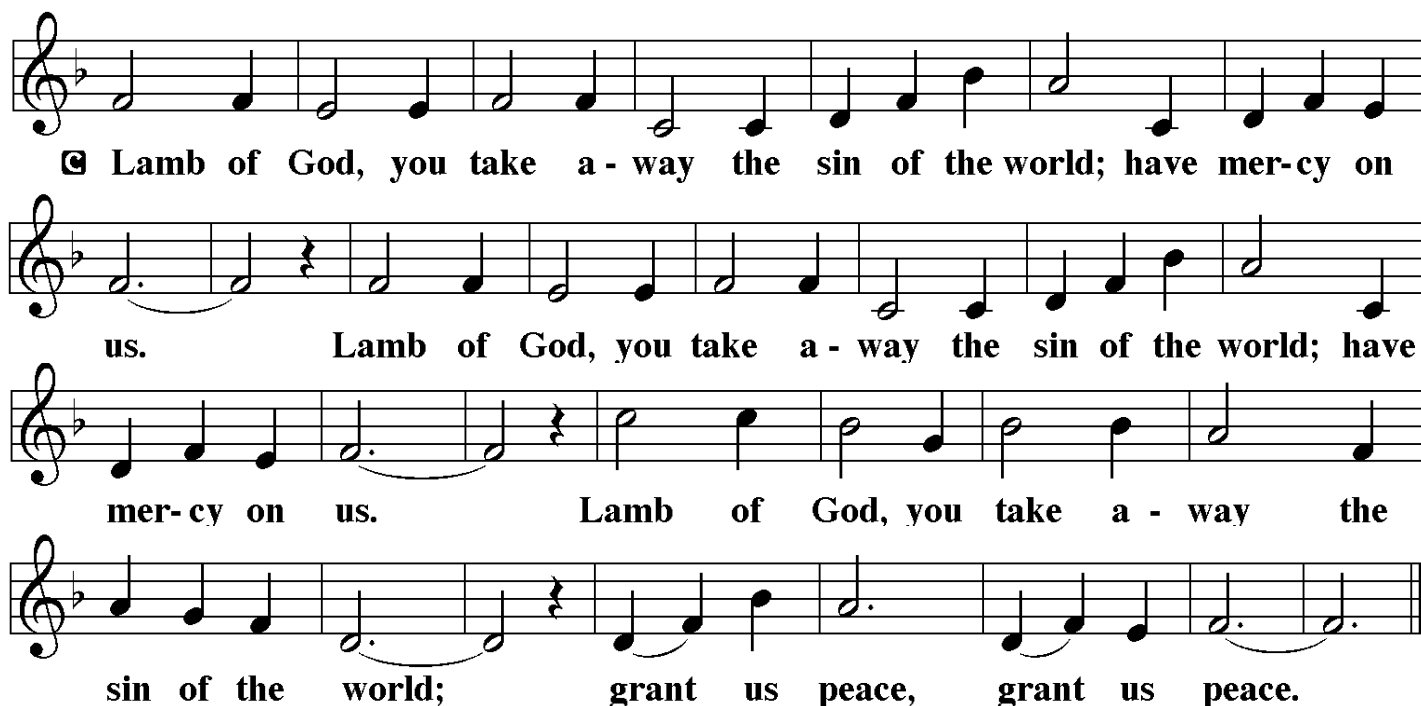
Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

**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

Around You, O Lord Jesus

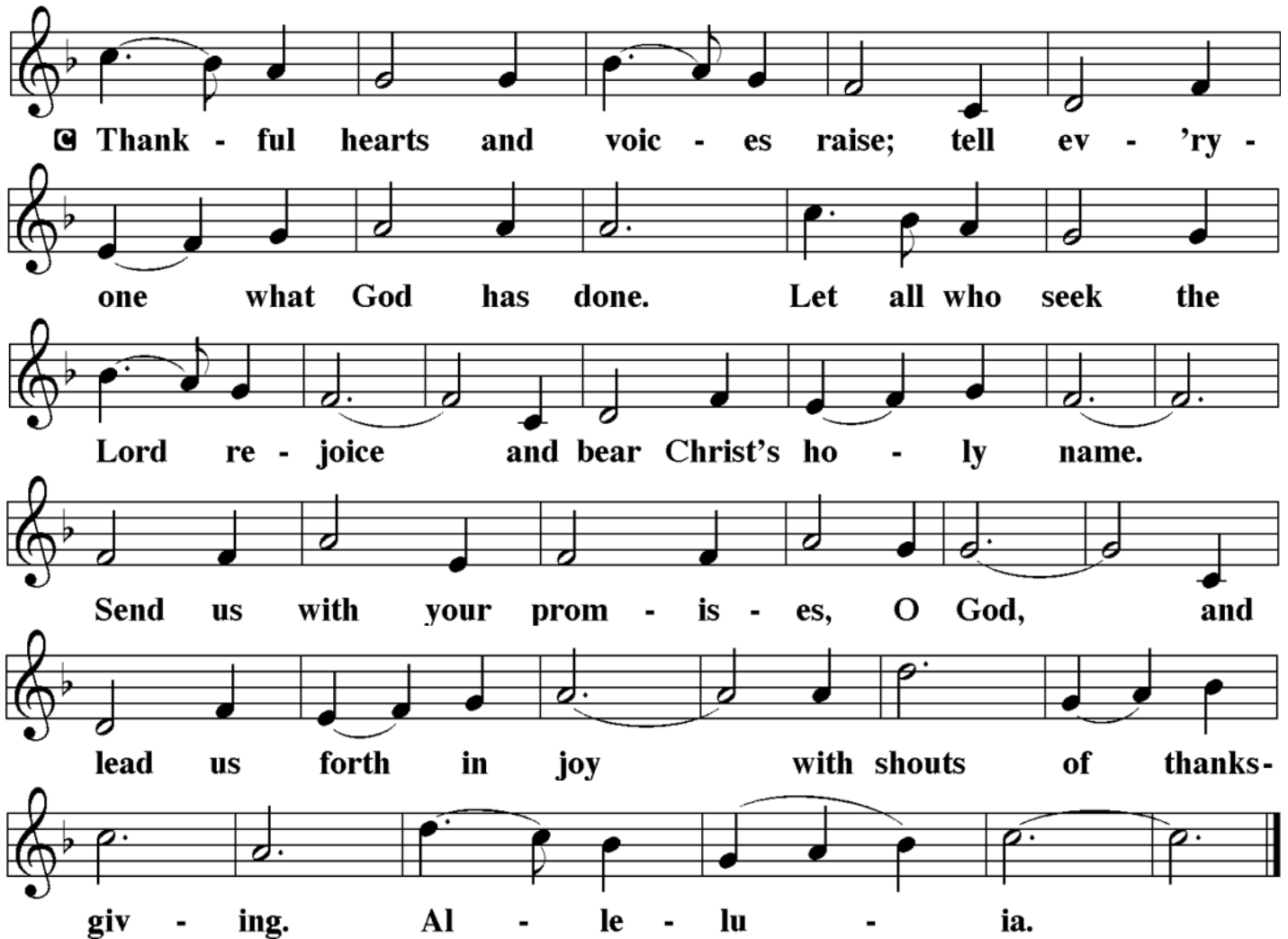
ELW 468

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

## 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 blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C

Charles Zeuner

## **BLC Musicians**

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Susan DePasquale, organ

Marsha Gerhardt, piano

**Thank you to Susan DePasquale** for serving as our guest organist today.

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org) or [pastor.amy@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.amy@blcfairport.org).

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"Lord, Be Glorified", Music: Bob Kilpatrick, Arranger: Mark Hayes, © 1978, 1990 Bob Kilpatrick Music  
"Fuga A 3 Voce" – C Major, Music: Charles Zeuner  
Editor: Barbara Owen, © 1975 McAfee Music Corporation



## **You're Invited**

Today Jesus invites us to a meal. It is an extraordinary invitation to do an ordinary thing: form bonds of love and community through shared food and drink. Like Wisdom inviting us to the feast of insight (Prov. 9:1-6), Jesus' invitation to share in the meal of his body and blood teaches us about the breadth and depth of God's love and about God's desire for us to abide in that love (John 6:56).

Jesus' audience asks a reasonable question: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (John 6:52). Jesus' answer doesn't really address the question; instead, he reiterates that he is the true bread from heaven, the true source of eternal life. This must have been off-putting to his listeners. Eat flesh? Drink blood? And yet, here we find a profoundly grace-filled invitation—abide in me—and a promise: through this meal I abide in you. We are invited to not only join Jesus at the table, but to be at home in the love of God, knowing that Christ makes his home in our hearts and lives too. So come: eat, and get to know God.