



Sunday, October 6, 2024
20th Sunday after Pentecost



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org

PRELUDE

Holy God, We Praise Your Name
(GROSSER GOTT)

Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774
setting, Paul Manz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

How Firm a Foundation
(FOUNDATION)

Early American tune
arr. Sandra Eithun

The Chancel Bells

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God	ELW 458
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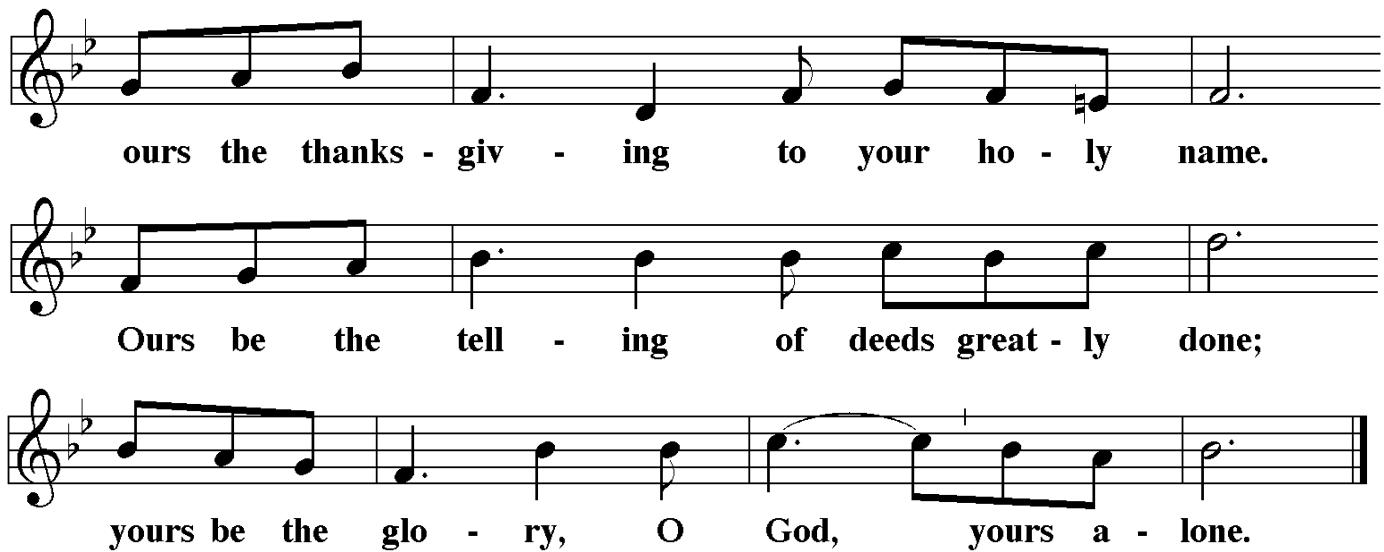
GREETING

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. Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept;

then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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 Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God’s surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels	ACS 1044
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1 Not for tongues of heav-en's an-gels, not for wis-dom to dis-
2 Love is hum-ble, love is gen-tle, love is ten-der, true, and
3 Nev-er jeal-ous, nev-er self-ish, love will not re-joice in
4 In the day this world is fad-ing, faith and hope will play their



cern, not for faith that mas-ters moun-tains, for this
kind; love is gra-cious, ev-er pa-tient, gen-er-
wrong; nev-er boast-ful nor re-sent-ful, love be-
part; but when Christ is seen in glo-ry love shall



bet-ter gift we yearn:
ous of heart and mind: may love be ours, O Lord.
lieves and suf-fers long:
reign in ev-'ry heart:

*Today we celebrate the baptism of Hazel Marcy Cavilia,
the daughter of Cori and Stephen Cavilia.
Hazel's baptism sponsors are Jason Mincer and Francesca Cavilia.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

#1 God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. God of grace.

hear our prayer.

#2 Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. God of grace.

hear our prayer.

#3 Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals. Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for compassion. God of grace.

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, your Son, Jesus, blessed children and called us to be like them. Help us to better know and care for these children, youth and young adults: Cameron, Catherine, Charlotte, Connor, and Charlotte. Strengthen the connections we share with the ministries we serve, especially the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you are near to all who call upon you.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- Oliver James, son of Emily and John, grandson of Glenda and Mark L, born September 29
- Hazel Marcy, child of God and baptized today. We celebrate with her parents Cori and Stephen C., grandparents Marcy and Tom A., and sponsors Jason M. and Francesca C.

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

- Cathy A who died on September 18, her funeral was held September 29

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- David P, son of Laurie and John P, who has been diagnosed with cancer and is in the process of developing a treatment plan
- Those impacted by the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, those who grieve as well as those involved in rescue and recovery operations
- Ros. S who is now scheduled for surgery on October 24

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

Silence for individual prayer.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

Thank you for your offerings that support the ongoing ministry that we share. 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 or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.



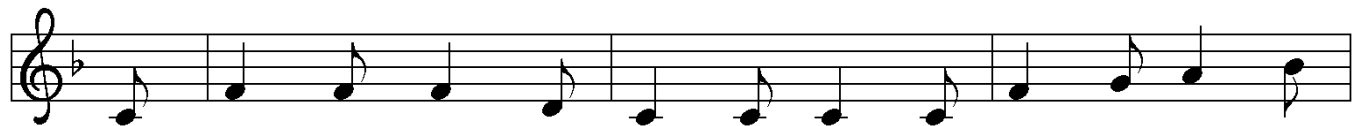
OFFERING OF MUSIC

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

words, Linda Lee Johnson
(based on Psalm 8)
music, Tom Fettke

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,
**source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us
to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord. 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

Lord Jesus, you are resurrection and life.

**We give thanks that at your table you fill us with good things and feed us
from your abundance.**

Pour out your Spirit on us and this feast of love.

**Build us into a lasting community that embodies your love. Strengthen us to
serve you in all we do. Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

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

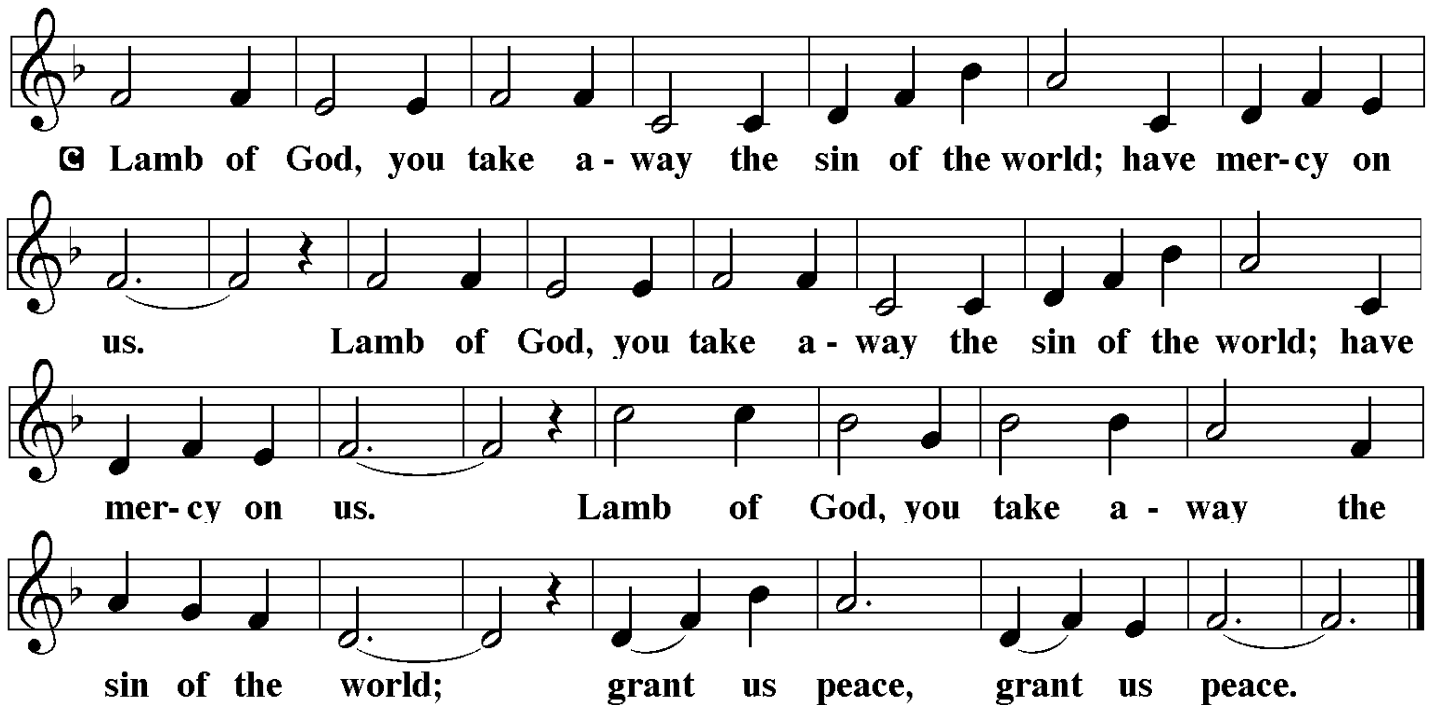
Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God

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

Bind Us Together

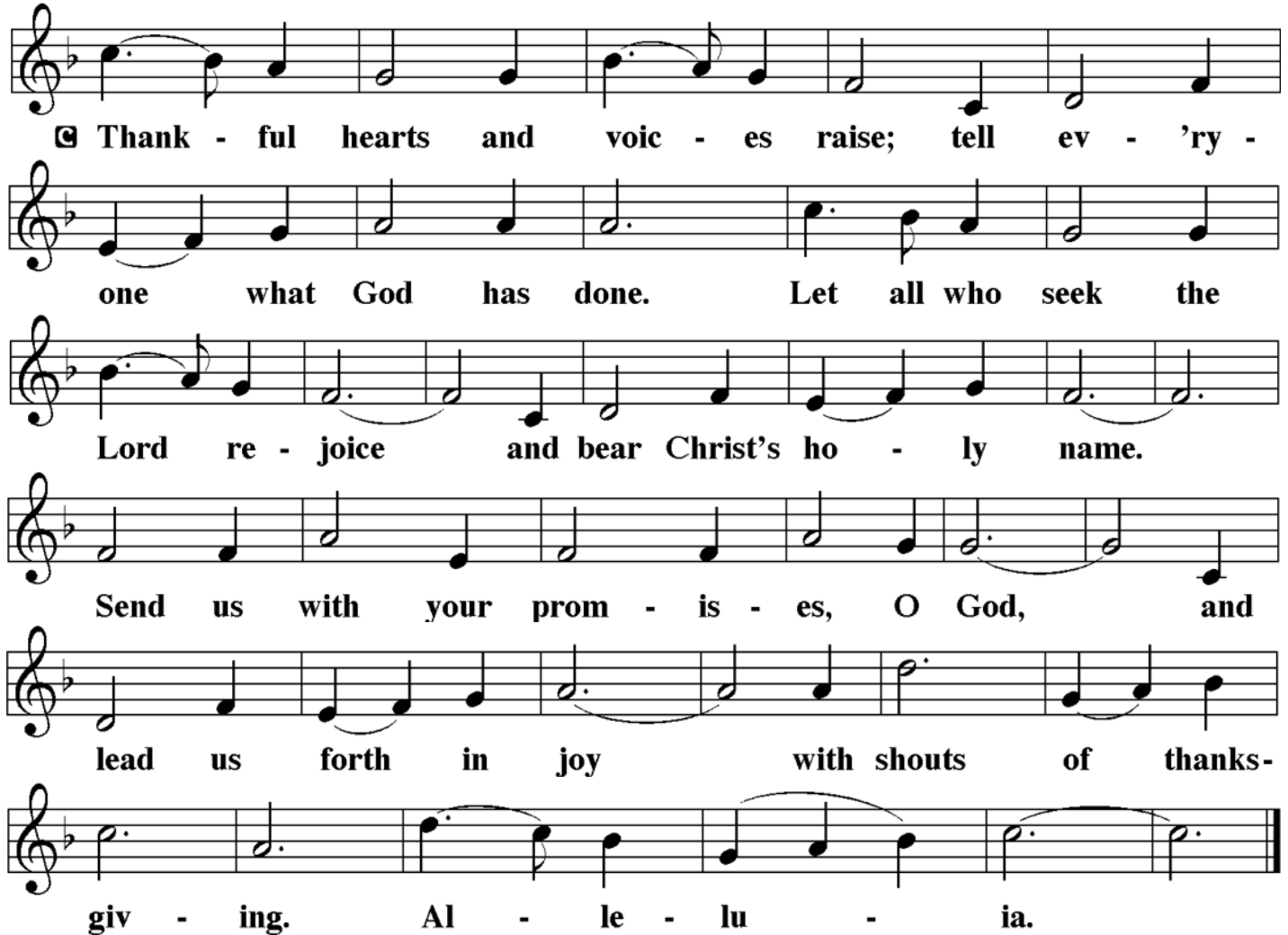
WOV 748

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

WOV 770

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, 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, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless ☩ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Praise to You, O God of Mercy

WOV 790

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rejoice in the Lord

James Mansfield

BLC Pastors

The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Chrisanne Gates, Chancel Choir Director

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 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.

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Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
"Holy God, We Praise Your Name" Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1774 Arranger: Paul Manz
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"How Firm a Foundation" Music: Early American tune Arranger: Sandra Eithun © 2003, 2012 Choristers Guild
"Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels" Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith Music: Peter Cutts
Text © 1985 Hope Publishing Company Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company
"The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" Words: Linda Lee Johnson (based on Psalm 8)
Music: Tom Fettke © 1979 Wordspring Music, LLC/Word Music, LLC
"Rejoice in the Lord" Music: James Mansfield © 1982 Lorenz Publishing Co.



**BLC Music Groups
Rehearsals**

Children's Choir- Sundays at 10:15am
Chancel Bells- Wednesdays at 6pm
Folk Group- Wednesdays at 6:15pm
Chancel Choir- Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Dulcimers- Fridays at 3pm



BLC Quilters

*1st & 3rd Thurs each
month: Cut, Sort, Sew
5th Thurs: Quilt Tying
7 PM*

***Join BLC's email list
to receive our weekly
STAR e-newsletter
and other
announcements!***



between sundays 



Find episodes of our
podcast here!

Who Would Jesus Bless Today?

Many Bibles include a heading before the latter part of today's gospel reading (Mark 10:13-16) that says something like "Blessing the Children" or "Jesus Welcomes the Children." In reading such a heading, we might begin to imagine a sentimental scene in which Jesus is surrounded by cute, adorable children. When we think about children being blessed in our churches today, we might imagine children gathering around the altar or at the front of the worship space for a children's time, in which the pastor or worship leader would say a prayer with them and give them a blessing. The parents and others may also be gathered just behind the children, smiling in adoration of these young ones.

However, we cannot view the scene from Mark's gospel with only our modern understanding of the role and place of children in society. The life of many children in North America is one of relative privilege, with carefree days in which they often experience the care and love of grown-ups. Jesus, by bringing the children to him, identifies himself with those who were among the most vulnerable and helpless in society. In ancient times, children often were treated like property. They had few protections from those who would treat them badly. But Jesus came into the world for ones such as these children. Who, in our communities, is in the place of the children of ancient times? As Christ's church, do we provide a place of welcome and care for the most vulnerable and weak in our society?