

Sunday, October 13, 2024
21st Sunday after Pentecost



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

PRELUDE

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

(I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN)

African American spiritual

setting, Robert J. Powell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

GATHERING

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

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. Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through 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: Hebrews 4:12-16

The reading from Mark reminds us of how our desire to follow Jesus is often pierced by our desire to hold onto what we have. We are laid bare before God; however, Christ, our high priest, stands with us and shows us God's grace.

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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 10:17-31

Christians receive the traditional biblical commandments, and yet we know that we cannot keep them. With the Spirit's help, together we become a new family and follow Christ, who radically alters cultural values. We are grateful that Jesus looks on us with love. Since Mark's community met for worship in houses, this passage may include reference to the gift of the church in the lives of believers.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

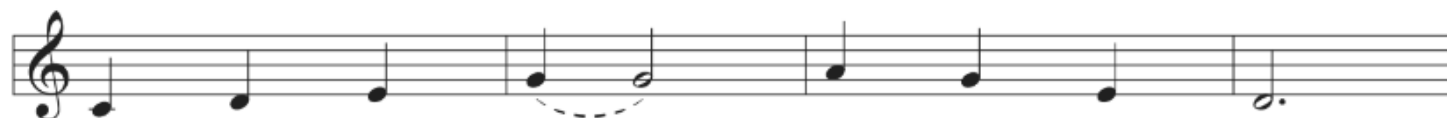
Come As You Are

Cantor: stanza 1

All: sts. 2, 3, 4, 5



1. Come as you are, that's how I want you.
 2. No need to fear, love sets no lim - its.
 3. I came to call sin - ners, not just the vir - tuous. I
 4. Go to my peo - ple, sit with the bro - ken.
 5. Come as you are, that's how I love you.



Come as you are, feel quite at home.
 No need to fear, love nev - er ends.
 came to bring peace, not to con - demn.
 Go to my peo - ple, stand in their pain.
 Come as you are, trust me a - gain.



Close to my heart, loved and for - giv - en;
 Don't run a - way, shamed and dis - heart - en'd.
 Each time you fail to live by my prom - ise,
 Let Love trans - form the dark - est of plac - es,
 Noth - ing can change the love that I bear you.

come as you are, why stand a - lone?
 Rest in my love, trust me a - gain.
 why do you think I'd love you the less?
 I will be with you wher - ev - er you go.
 All will be well, just come as you are.

INTERLUDE: 1, 2, 3, 4 Final 3

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.

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

#1 Compassionate God, embolden the church to seek all who are lost, clothe those who are naked, and mend what is broken. May we be generous bearers of your eternal love. We especially pray for those aiding the victims of recent hurricanes including Lutheran Disaster Response. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#2 Sustaining God, as we approach harvest time, we pray for farmers, field workers, and those who process crops. Keep us mindful of environmental threats to the nourishing food that feeds the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#3 Steadfast God, inspire world leaders to share resources and work collectively to end global poverty, starvation, and preventable disease. Direct us to seek justice and equity, that all may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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: Cooper, Corinne, Daniel, David, and Delaney. 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

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- David O who is currently hospitalized
- Barb K, former member of BLC, who is having heart issues and is scheduled for surgery on 10/18
- Art W, who broke his leg
- 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

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.



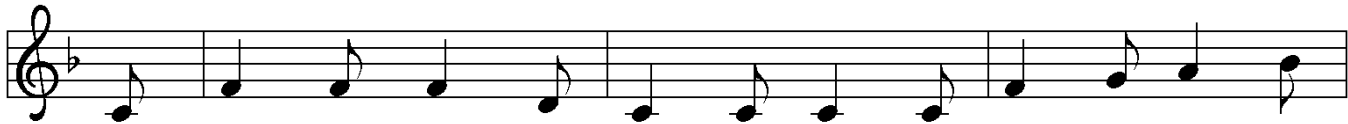
OFFERING OF MUSIC

Thy Word

words/music, Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant
choral setting, Jack Schrader

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, eat and live.

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

Faith Begins by Letting Go

ACS 1004

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,

tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;

pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

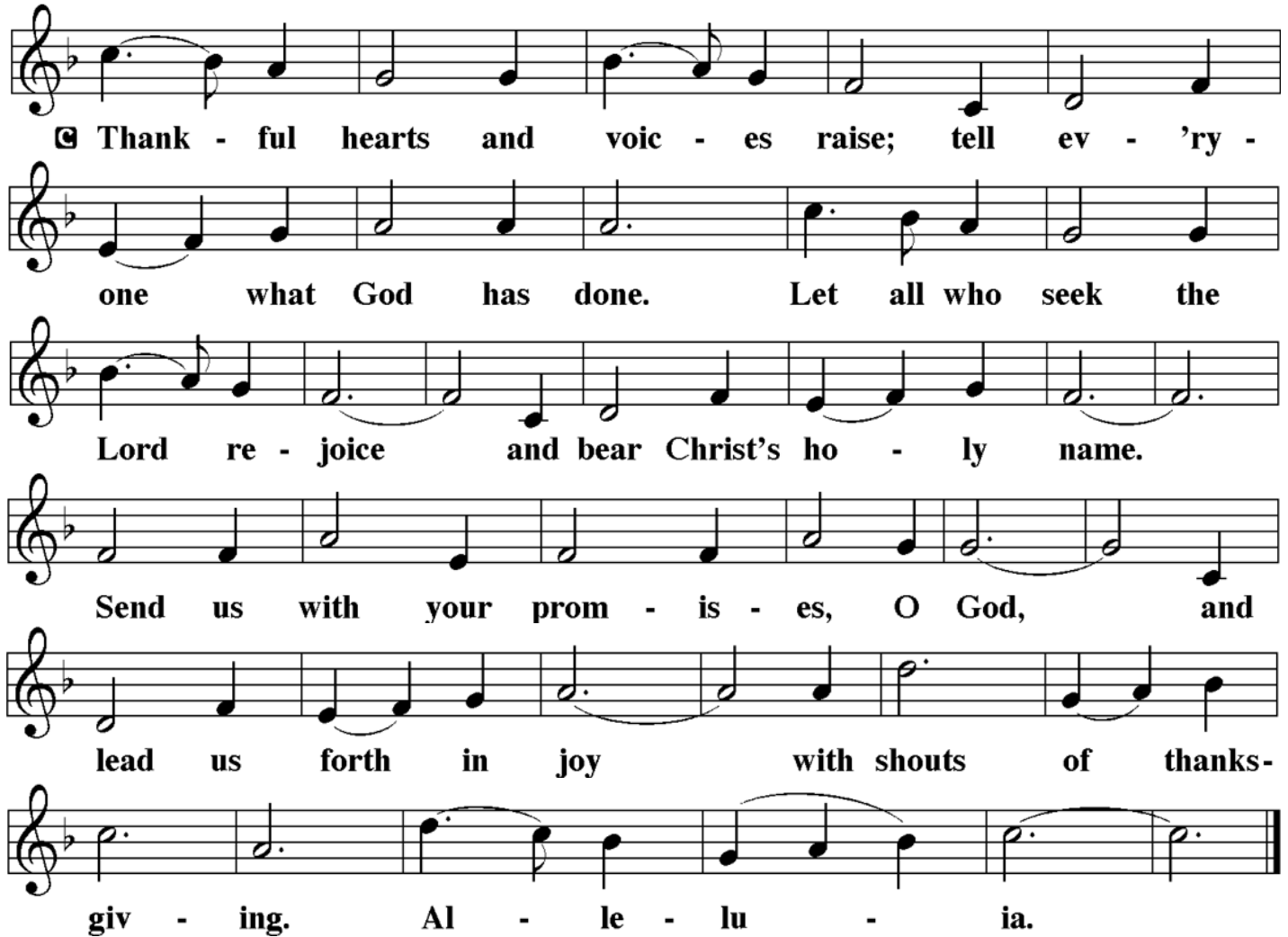
COMMUNION HYMNS

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW 461

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

ELW 678

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O Gott du frommer Gott

(O God, Thou Faithful God)

Hieronymous Florentinus Quehl

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

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Donna Berner, cantor

Rich Towsley, guitar

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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"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian", Tune: African American spiritual, Arranger: Robert J. Powell, © 2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.

"Come As You Are", Text and Music: Deirdre Browne ibvm, Arranger: David Putney, © Deirdre Browne ibvm, Melbourne, Australia

"Thy Word", Words and Music: Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant, Choral Setting: Jack Schrader, © 1984 and choral setting © 1999 Word Music, Inc./Meadowgreen Music Co., (adm. EMI Christian Music Group)

"Faith Begins by Letting Go", Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., Music: J. G. Werner, *Choralbusch*, 1815, Text © 1966 Hope Publishing Co.

"O Gott du frommer Gott", Music: Hieronymus Florentinus Quehl



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!



PLEASE NOTE



BLC's Annual Meeting will be Sunday October 27, at 10:15 AM
(immediately following the Sunday service). **Please plan on attending!**

Fat Camels and Narrow Needles: Only Possible for God

A rich man approaches Jesus and asks how to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to sell what he owns, give the money to the poor, and follow. Jesus will accept nothing less than our very selves. Like the rich man, we too are left defenseless and grieving by Jesus' radical call to leave behind and give away what we count on for our own security. He wants us, and therefore also wants the things that keep us from him; he gazes upon us in love, even as he calls us to leave behind our false sources of security. How hard it is for us camels to pass through the eye of the needle! We too grieve at the impossibility. It is in fact impossible for us, yet more than possible for God to make it so. For we have a "great high priest who has passed through the heavens, the Son of God," who is both able to sympathize with our great weakness but also to provide mercy and help. While eternal life on the other side of the needle is a free gift that only God can give, it is a gift that claims the entirety of our lives and therefore reshapes our stewardship of whatever earthly goods we do have. For first and foremost we are called to follow the Christ who gazes upon us in love. Since we are his, following him we will enter through the eye of the needle, leaving behind what cannot fit through with us. In doing so we are promised that we will gain everything: a hundredfold more in this life in a new community under the Cross, "and in the age to come eternal life" (Mark 10:30).