

You are my Son,  
the Beloved;  
with you  
I am well  
pleased

LUKE 3:22



*Sunday, January 12, 2025*  
*Baptism of Our Lord*



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)

## **PRELUDE**

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern  
(How Lovely Shines the Morning Star)

tune, Philipp Nicolai  
Johann Christoph Bach

Allegro Moderato  
from *Trumpet Voluntary in D Major*

William Goodwin

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.*

## **GATHERING**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now

ELW 448

**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.**



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.*  
 And on earth . . . peace to God’s peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.*  
 And on earth . . . peace to God’s peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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: Isaiah 43:1-7**

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,  
 nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
 I will bring your offspring from the east,  
 and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
 bring my sons from far away  
 and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
 whom I created for my glory,  
 whom I formed and made."

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya!*  
 Al - le - lu - ia.      al - le - lu - ia.      al - le - lu - ia!

*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya!*  
 Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!

*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,*  
 Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,

*a - le - lu - ya!      A - le - lu - ya!*  
 al - le - lu - ia!      Al - le - lu - ia!

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Cantor: stanza 1

All: sts. 2, 3



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,  
 2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,  
 3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,  
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"  
 guide us through the shad - ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,  
 Where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,  
 show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.  
 there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.  
 bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

## INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

#1 You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

#2 Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

#3 You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in this season when we celebrate your presence among us, help us to better know and care for these children, youth and young adults: Rob, Ryan, Roxanne, Ryan, Samuel, and Ryan. Strengthen the connections we share with the ministries we serve, especially the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

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



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

- Jim C, who died on 12/29
- John V, brother of Jeanne S, former BLC member, who died on 12/28
- Ray N, stepfather of Mary O, who died 12/11

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

- Bill B, son of Jeanne S, former BLC member, diagnosed with cancer
- Jon Y, friend of Roger K, recovering from surgery

Hear these concerns 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 our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**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](http://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

Assurance

text, Fanny J. Crosby / tune, Phoebe P. Knapp

(incorp. *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* – J.S. Bach)

setting, John Ness Beck

The Chancel Choir

### OFFERTORY

Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in  
us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your  
ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.  
Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we  
guide and teach each oth-er, help us to share your love with the  
world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth-er.  
Grow-ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king-dom; we fol-low in  
faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your  
word to spread the news of your Son!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of grace,  
your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



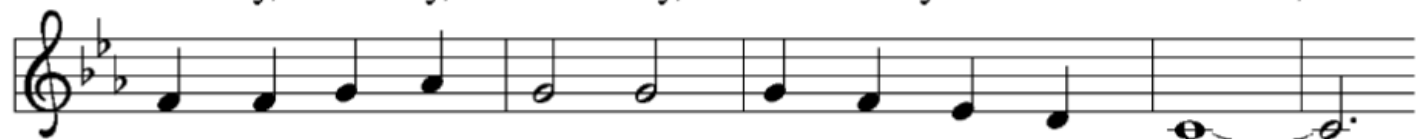
*San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,*  
*Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,*



*Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.*  
*God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.*



*San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,*  
*Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,*



*Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.*  
*God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.*

*Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la*  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

*tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el*  
 earth. . . . . Blest is he who comes in the

*nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el*  
 name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

*cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -*  
 high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . . .

*di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.*  
 Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **JOY – JESUS, OTHERS, YOU**

*Once a month, kids in Grades 3-5 are invited to come forward first for communion and then leave worship for a special activity time until 10:15 am. During this time they will work on a project together and use the Faith 5 practices (Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless).*

### **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**

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,                      ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

The musical score consists of three systems of music in G major (one sharp). The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), B5 (quarter), C6 (quarter), B5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). There is a triplet of G5, A5, B5. The second system has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), B5 (quarter), C6 (quarter), B5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). There is a triplet of G5, A5, B5. The third system has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), B5 (quarter), C6 (quarter), B5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). There is a triplet of G5, A5, B5.

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,                      ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe - ca - do del mun - do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a - way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz,                      da - nos tu paz.  
grant us your peace,                      grant us your peace.

**HYMNS AND MUSIC FOR COMMUNION**

O Living Breath of God

ELW 407

Conditor alme siderum,  
(Creator of the Stars of Night)

tune, 9th-century plainsong  
Don Freudenburg

**TABLE BLESSING**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,  
**Amen.**

## **LEAVING TO SERVE**

### **BENEDICTION**

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.

**Amen.**

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>SENDING HYMN</b> |
|---------------------|

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized |
|---------------------------------------|

|         |
|---------|
| ELW 304 |
|---------|

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

Jakaż to gwiazda błyszczy na wschodzie  
(Oh, What Kind of Star Shines in the East)

Stefan Surzyński

## **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:

Madeleine Hoffman, cantor

Margie Gaul, percussion

Neil Vokes, percussion

Dave Wideman, percussion

**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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Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, (How Lovely Shines the Morning Star), Tune: Philipp Nicolai  
Music: Johann Christoph Bach, © 2011 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.  
Allegro Moderato (from Trumpet Voluntary in D Major), Music: William Goodwin, © 1966 Oxford University Press  
"When a Star Is Shining", Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore  
Text © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc., Music © 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.  
"Assurance", Text: Fanny J. Crosby, Tune: Phoebe P. Knapp, Music: J. S. Bach / setting, John Ness Beck  
© 1980 Beckenhorst Press  
Conditor alme siderum (Creator of the Stars of Night), Tune: Plainsong, Mode 4, 9th century,  
Music: Don Freudenburg, © 2013 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.  
Jakaż to gwiazda błyszczący na wschodzie, (Oh, What Kind of Star Shines in the East), Composer: Stefan Surzyński  
© 1986 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.



## **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*

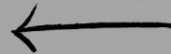
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to receive our weekly  
STAR e-newsletter  
and other  
announcements!***



**between sundays** 



Find episodes of our  
podcast here!





## The Voice of God

Are you longing to hear God's voice? What would it be like to hear God call you by name? For many it seems that God spoke to people long ago and far away, but now in this time and place God's voice is much less clear and less audible. Perhaps we cannot hear the voice of God because our world is full of noise? Perhaps we are not open to the particular frequency in which God chooses to call us? Perhaps we continually tune out this heavenly summons with our daily rush, not taking the time to quiet ourselves, our minds, our inner voices. We can use this time after Epiphany to clear out a corner of our lives for quiet prayer, meditation, or centering. Maybe then we will be able to hear . . . to sense . . . to listen.

Listen! God's voice comes from heaven to call us by name, speak to the earth, shake the wilderness, and to anoint "the Beloved." Listen! God's people speak words of covenant, commitment, and community in the liturgy of baptism. Listen! God's word surrounds this day with power and majesty and "in the temple of the Lord all are crying, 'Glory!'" (Ps. 29:9). In this season of epiphanies, today's miraculous encounter with the living God immerses us in the sound of God's voice and bathes us in God's baptismal promise. All who are splashed by this water gasp, cry, exclaim, sigh, and sing. Let all who have breath, praise the Lord!