

*Sunday, February 2, 2025*  
*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



## **PRELUDE**

Trio on “When Love Is Found”

(O WALY WALY)

Randolph Currie  
tune, English traditional

O Jesu Christe, wahres Licht

(O Christ, our true and only Light)

Helmut Walcha  
tune, hymnal of Nürnberg, 1676

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God’s glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.*

## **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**

**O God of Light**

**ELW 507**

**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 and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through 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: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

*Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are identical and feature a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The third and fourth staves feature a different melody with dotted half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in italics.

*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 4:21-30**

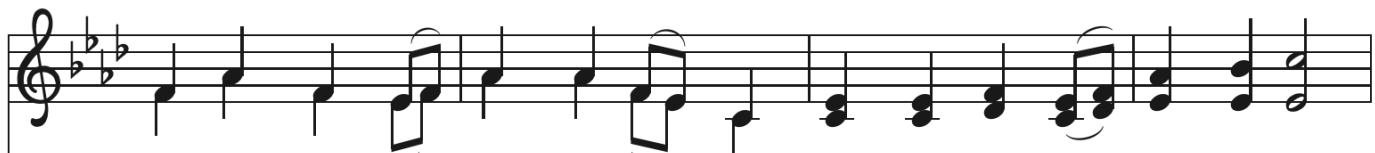
*People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.*

<sup>21</sup> Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’ ” <sup>24</sup> And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.



The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**


## Commonwealth Is God's Commandment




1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.  
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,  
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,




Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.  
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.  
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



*Refrain*



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



*Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha:* com-mon good is ho-ly ground.





## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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.*

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 God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace.  
**hear our prayer.**

#2 Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace.  
**hear our prayer.**

#3 We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. 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: Haley, Anna, Claire, and Dylan. 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:*

- Whitey L, friend of Jeff and Ruth Hedin, who died on 1/20

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

- Luke, a former student of Kathy M, who was badly injured in a car accident in NC
- Pat E, who will be undergoing surgery on February 3

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

*Silence for individual prayer.*

God of grace.  
**hear our prayer.**

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

One Faith, One Hope, One Lord      text, Ephesians 4:4-6, 13 / C. Courtney, ad.  
music, Craig Courtney

The Chancel Choir

### OFFERTORY

Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of four staves of music in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with some rests and ties. The lyrics are: "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".

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. 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.**

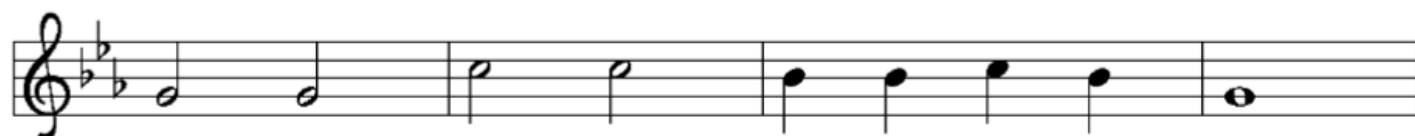
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

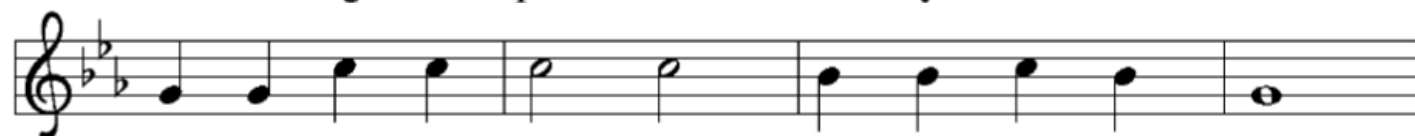
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . . we praise your name and join their  
unending hymn:



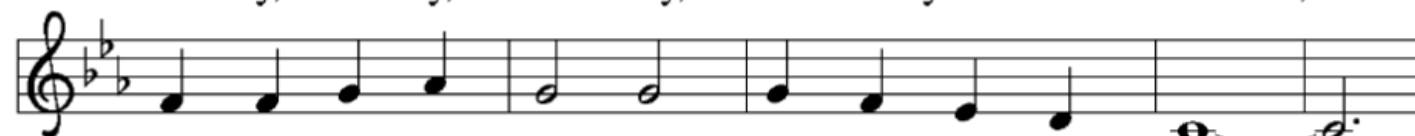
San - to, san - to, san - to<sub>es</sub> el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . . God,



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



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to<sub>es</sub> el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . . God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to<sub>es</sub> 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!**

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

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros. 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, grant us your peace, da - nos tu paz. grant us your peace.

### HYMN AND MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

SLANE

(Be Thou My Vision)

ELW 644

Warren Swenson  
tune, Irish traditional

## **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>	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	ELW 631
---------------------	----------------------------------	---------

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

A Mighty Fortress  
(EIN FESTE BURG)

Wilbur Held  
tune, Martin Luther



## **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:

Jane Morale, violin

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).

Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.

From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43732.

Permission to stream and print the music in this service obtained from One License under Annual License #A-724002

NRSVue Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education

Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Trio on "When Love Is Found" Tune: o waly waly – English traditional; Music: Randolph Currie © 2004 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

"Commonwealth Is God's Commandment" Text: Mary Louise Bringle; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony* Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.

"One Faith, One Hope, One Lord" Text: Ephesians 4:4-6, 13; Craig Courtney, adapt.; Music: Craig Courtney

© 1989 The Sacred Music Press

"Slane" – Be Thou My Vision Tune: Irish traditional; Music: Warren Swenson © 1977 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

"A Mighty Fortress" Tune: ein feste burg – Martin Luther; Music: Wilbur Held © 1976 Concordia Publishing House

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

SAVE THE DATE:  
JULY 28-31, 2025  
AT BLC

BLC is partnering with St. Paul's, Pittsford again  
for this summer's VBS program!

More details to come!

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



# Christmas Eve and Lent Survey

As we reflect on Christmas Eve and look forward to Lent and Easter, we would like your thoughts and suggestions on what makes these worship experiences most meaningful for you. We hope this survey will not require more than 5 minutes of your time. All responses are anonymous. Thank you!



## Called to Domestic Disturbance

Jesus reads from the scriptures and is the talk of the town. At first, Jesus is seen as the hometown boy made good. Then something changes. Is it the mention of Jesus being the son of a local carpenter, Joseph? Does Jesus sense that people are proud of his learning but less eager to engage in his teachings? Is it that people's expectations are raised—but now Jesus tells them that “no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown”? Jesus angers the crowd and is driven to a cliff and probable death. What does it mean for this hometown boy to create a domestic, and more to the point, a holy disturbance? God's vision is certainly a challenge, and now Jesus, with the words of the prophets, is unleashing a disturbance in the domestic, tamed, controlled ways of the world and its powers. In Jeremiah 1:4–10, the prophet Jeremiah recognizes the challenge of speaking a prophetic word and questions whether he is too young to take on God's commission. Jesus steps into his role and finds challenge among his home community and those who have known him his whole life. In a strange twist, Jesus walks through this challenging crowd to safety.

Today, echoing Jeremiah and the words of Psalm 71:1–6, we sense a call or mission, even in the midst of dangers or among those who would do harm. Jesus and Jeremiah become key illustrations and open conversation of how we are formed, equipped, and called to live God's agape love, even when surrounded by challenges, obstacles, or hostility. Where is God calling us? How must we confront our own or the community's barriers? What prophetic word are we being called to speak that might cause a holy disturbance?