



Jesus: a way in the **WILDERNESS**

Wilderness is a significant place in scripture. It's the place where people encounter God, where identity is shaped, where people learn to live by faith. It's where Jesus faces temptation. Wilderness is also significant for us. When we come to those places where we don't know which way to go, when we don't know what comes next for us, when we feel like the usual systems of support are not available to us... we are in the wilderness as well.

This Lent, we will name the realities of the wilderness environments where we find ourselves and focus our attention on Jesus who shows us *a way in the wilderness*, where we find God's faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and love.

Ash Wednesday, March 5 – A simple liturgy includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Noon – In person only

7 pm – In person or livestreamed

Sundays in Lent we add space for silence and reflection in worship as we follow Jesus along the way. Worship in-person or livestream at 8:55 am.

March 9 – Luke 4:1-13 – Faithfulness

March 16 – Luke 13:31-35 – Mercy

March 23 – Luke 13:1-9 – Compassion

March 30 – Luke 15:11-32 – Forgiveness

April 6 – Luke 12:1-8 – Love

Finding a Way in the Wilderness . . . Sundays at 10:20 am. A time to reflect with others on the Sunday service and an opportunity to name the wilderness environments where we find ourselves. Grab a cup of coffee and a treat and share in this adult discussion in the BLC Living Room facilitated by one of the pastors.

Wednesdays in Lent . . . March 12 thru April 9

Food for the Journey. . . Wednesdays from 6-6:45 pm. Come for connection and stay for a simple one-pot supper in the Fellowship Hall! If you're headed home from work or just happy to have your dinner plans made for you one night of the week, share in this community meal (whether or not Wednesday midweek worship is part of your evening plans). If you would like to contribute to a meal, a week of clean-up, please [sign-up online here](#) or on the kiosk in the Narthex.

Holden Evening Prayer . . . 7 pm in person or livestreamed. We share in this beloved liturgy and reflect further on our weekly sign-post for finding Jesus in the wilderness drawing on the language of the Psalms.

Other Opportunities for your Wilderness Journey this Lent

Daily Devotional . . . Receive a daily devotion delivered to your email beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing through Easter! We will combine reflections written by the Bethlehem community with poems, prayers, and writings that reflect upon our Lenten theme – Jesus: A Way in the Wilderness. Sign up to receive it in your daily email throughout Lent at blcfairport.org/lenten-devotions, or pick up a printed copy in the Narthex beginning Sunday, March 2.

Daily Walking . . . Jesus moved everywhere by walking and built a community along the way. We've created this [Lenten Calendar](#) with simple daily walking prompts and multiple Sunday meet-ups that will be hosted by BLC pastors and staff! Walk through the wilderness this Lent (and since the wilderness looks like our everyday life, you won't have to go far!)

Supporting Others . . . One tangible way to share a message of hope and love is by writing an anonymous note of prayerful support to someone who may be desperately in need of hope. Many prisoners have had no contact with the outside world for months or years and can feel like they have no one who cares. Prison Ministry of Upstate New York (PMUNY) runs a variety of faith-based programs in prisons in the upstate NY area. Each year during the Easter season, PMUNY delivers Messages of Hope and Love to incarcerated individuals. Look for the display in the Narthex for instructions and examples. PMUNY is a ministry supported by Bethlehem through Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton. For more info on PMUNY you can visit pmuny.org or ask Dave Wideman.

Between Sundays . . . A chance to reflect on life and faith between Sundays with Amy and Abby. Each Monday, we send an email with a brief reflection, a resource for pondering, and a link to our podcast where we talk together about the crossroads of faith and daily life. This Lent, be sure to look at the Pondering section where we'll include a special playlist with a variety of music to accompany you this Lent. Visit Between Sundays on the BLC website where you can sign up to receive emails or to listen to the latest episode (<https://blcfairport.org/between-sundays>). Subscribe to Between Sundays wherever you listen to podcasts (iTunes, Google, Spotify)

Ready for Worship? Each Wednesday and Saturday during Lent, we share information like the bulletin and livestream link for our upcoming worship. If you are not currently receiving our Ready for Worship emails, please sign-up at blcfairport.org or contact office@blcfairport.org.

Easter Flowers & Alternate Giving Opportunity

Donate Easter flowers to adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning or donate to support Hope585 (hope585.org)– or both! To donate or order Easter flowers, visit blcfairport.org/easter-flower-alternate-giving or find hard copy forms in the Narthex. Flower orders are due by **Friday, April 4th**.

Holy Week/Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Check out the weekly Star and Ready for Worship emails for more information about Holy Week worship.

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13 at 8:55 am (in person and livestream)

Maundy Thursday, April 17 (in person and livestream)

Noon (in person and livestream) – Individual Absolution and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

6 pm (in person only) – Remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples, we will begin worship with a shared meal at tables in the Narthex and end in silence in the sanctuary after the altar is stripped

Good Friday, April 18 at 7 pm (in person and livestream) – **Tenebrae Service**

Easter Sunday, April 20 at 8:55 am (in person and livestream) **and**

11 am (in person only)

Easter Breakfast served 9:45 – 10:45 am