



*Sunday, July 27, 2025
7th Sunday after Pentecost*



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

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

(SLANE)

Mary Byrne
tune, Irish traditional

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention kids: You are welcome to select something from the activity baskets to use during worship! They are located near the entrance to the sanctuary. Ask an usher if you need help!

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God’s own. “When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.”

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us with compassion, forgives our sins, and heals our lives.

Amen.

We confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy, O God,
against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through † Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

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, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Psalm 138

*Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.
(Ps. 138:8).*

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because
of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹bove all things. R**

³ When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar. R**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹ hand
shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- ¹pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works ¹ of your hands. R**

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer..

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Ask the Complicated Questions	ACS 1005
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SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Page 227

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

#1 Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who will participate in and help to lead Vacation Bible School this week; for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, its voting members and all those participating in our Churchwide Assembly from July 28-August 2 in Phoenix; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. May our partnerships remind us of your abundance. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

By the power of your Spirit, you claim us as children of God through baptism. We give thanks for Riley Russell's new life in Christ and we pray for his parents, Russ and Erica, his sponsors, Danielle, Nicholas, Kathryn and Christopher, as they nurture Riley in the faith, so he may know your deep and abiding love always. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence. Give all your fullness of joy.

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Jen W, who is anticipating surgery on August 12 for possible breast cancer
- Dorice R, mother of Kim K, who moved to Advent House on July 18
- Bryan R (close friend of Aaron and Koosje J) who is in need of healing prayers as he travels for treatment
- Tim, father-in-law of Kyle J, who has been hospitalized with illness
- Volker H, who is in rehab after a recent hospitalization

Hear the names of those we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for individual prayer.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through 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

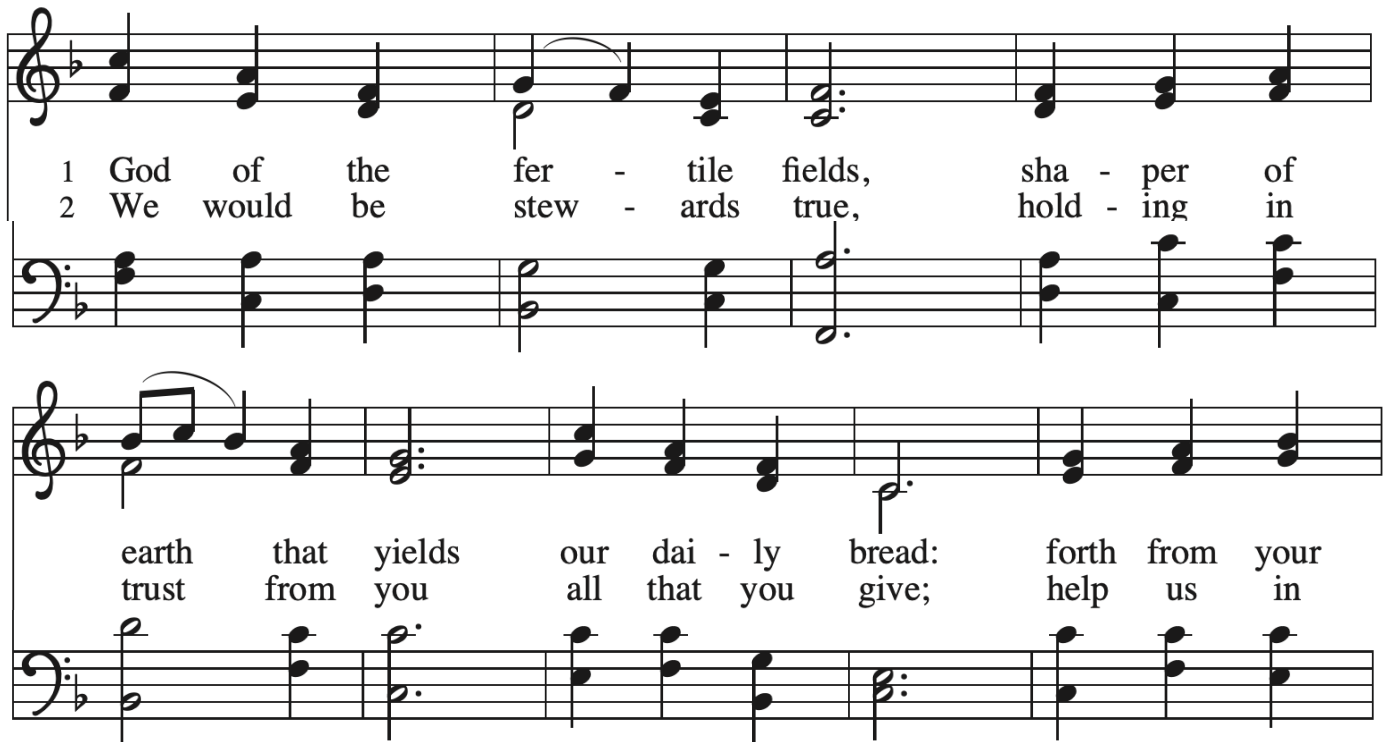
Doxology

(All People That on Earth Do Well)

Mark Hayes

tune, attr. Louis Bourgeois
from *The Genevan Psalter*, 1539

OFFERTORY



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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

Cantor

1. Gath - er us in - to one through bread and wine,
2. Pour out up - on us now your Spir - it, Lord,

ALL

gath - er us in - to one through bread and wine.
pour out up - on us now your Spir - it, Lord.

Cantor

Fill us up to be your liv - ing pres - ence,
Breathe new life and send us to your peo - ple,

ALL

fill us up to be your liv - ing pres - ence.
breathe new life and send us to your peo - ple.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, 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 kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice!

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

HYMN FOR COMMUNION

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Mothering God,

you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Symphonic Postlude

from Symphony No. 1, op. 68

Johannes Brahms
arr. Roger Wilson

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:

Marsha Gerhardt, piano

Kathy Moragne, cantor

Many thanks to Michael Koncilja, organist and pianist, for assisting us with today's worship.

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: Molley Vasey is in the office from 9am-1pm Tuesday-Thursday and can be reached by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing office@blcfairport.org. Our co-Pastors are available Sunday – Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling the church office or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org. *Please note: Pastor Amy is on vacation through August 3.*



Evergreen East Food Distribution

Sundays, July 20 thru September 21

We'll begin packing food in the parking lot at 10:30 AM (after worship) and then distribute food at 11:15 AM. Extra produce from your garden or any non-perishable items to add to the food cupboard are welcome!

Contact Julie Owen
(jowen@heritagechristianservices.org) to get involved!



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 NRSVue Bible, copyright 2021, Division of Christian Education
 "God of the Fertile Fields" – stanza 1&2 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796
 Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188
 "Glory to you, God" Music: J. Bert Carlson © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 12 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)
 "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" Text: Handt Hanson; Music: Handt Hanson
 © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.
 "Come, Let Us Eat" Music: Billema Kwillia, adapt. © Lutheran World Federation
 "Be Thou My Vision" – SLANE, Tune: Irish traditional, Music: Mary Byrne, © 2006 Hal Leonard Corp.
 "Glory to you, God", Music: J. Bert Carlson, © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 12 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)
 "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil", Text: Handt Hanson, Music: Handt Hanson
 © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.
 "Doxology" – OLD HUNDREDTH, Tune: Louis Bourgeois, Music: Mark Hayes, © 1990 Word Music (adm. Word, Inc.)
 "God of the Fertile Fields", Text: Georgia Harkness, Music: Felice de Giardini
 Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (adm. Hope Publishing Company)
 "Come, Let Us Eat", Music: Billema Kwillia, adapt., © Lutheran World Federation
 "Symphonic Postlude" – from Symphony No. 1, op. 68, Music: Johannes Brahms
 Arranger: Roger Wilson, © 1976 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

**REGISTER NOW!
JULY 28-31, 2025
AT BLC**

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

DETAILS: <https://blcfairport.org/vacation-bible-school-2025/>

Our Persistent, Negotiating Prayer Life

Today's readings incorporate several themes: negotiation, commands, persistence, and expectation. And surrounding all these themes is a bigger theme: boldness. Abraham is bold in speaking with God, so bold in fact that he not only negotiates with the Almighty, the Almighty willingly grants his request. Abraham had no fear in speaking in such a way to God, because he knew that God was listening and appreciating his concern. The disciples, too, speak with boldness. They don't ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, they *tell* him to teach them how to pray. Their imperative sets up a pattern of imperatives as Jesus teaches them the prayer that has been prayed unceasingly in the church catholic. These themes continue in boldness as persistence is encouraged, even to the extent of being able to ask, search, and knock, knowing that the Lord says we will receive what we ask for. And God wants to give to those who ask God. We are to ask in boldness, which comes from being "rooted and built up in [Christ]" (Col. 2:7). Strengthened by the Lord's supper, we are filled with God's Spirit to speak boldly and to be persistent in our prayers, and to be ready to receive the things for which we ask. The question becomes, then, what is it we want and need?