

WHOEVER WELCOMES YOU WELCOMES ME



MATTHEW 10:40

*Sunday, June 28, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

We Gather Together – Pastorate on *Kremser*
(We Praise You, O God – ELW 870)

Robert J. Powell
tune, Dutch folk melody

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

Red hymnal - ELW - Evangelical Lutheran Worship Blue hymnal - ACS - All Creation Sings

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

We confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

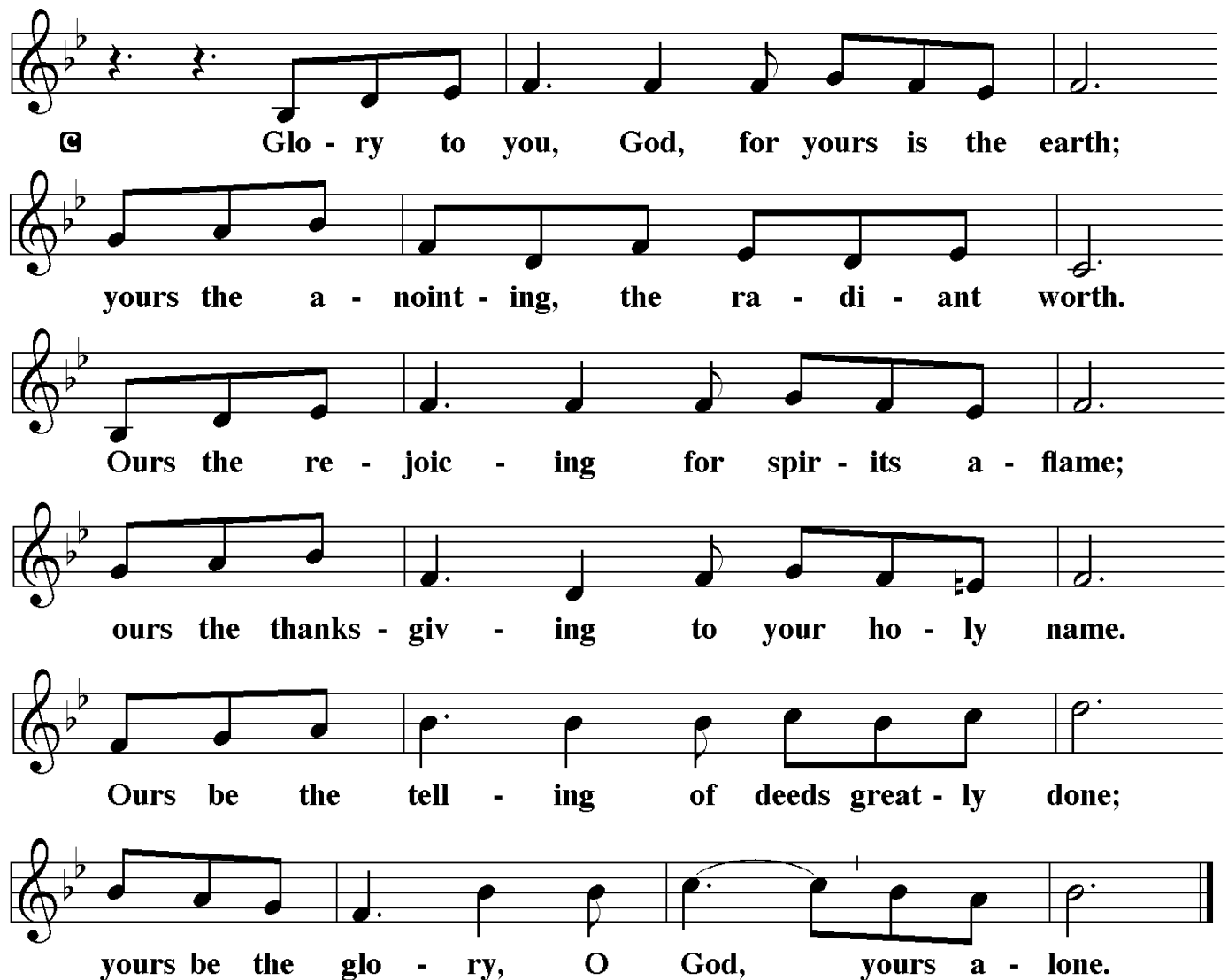
Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.
Amen.

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. O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

⁵ The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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 Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW 818

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.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

#1 Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 Loving God, bring an end to conflict abroad. In this week leading up to our Nation's celebration of 250 years of independence, encourage each of us to open our hearts and to seek common ground. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster justice and peace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center as they celebrate 90 years of ministry; 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.

We know that all people matter in your eyes and you know their cares and concerns, their hopes and joys. We pray for those whose needs are known to us.

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

- Linda J, (especially husband, Dan, and daughters, Lynn, Diane, and Laura) who died on 6/13

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Fred S, who is home recovering from the hospital
- Dana, cousin of Todd and Sara S, battling breast cancer and has an inoperable tumor
- Michael G, a fellow Sensei of Joe S from Long Island

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.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus 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

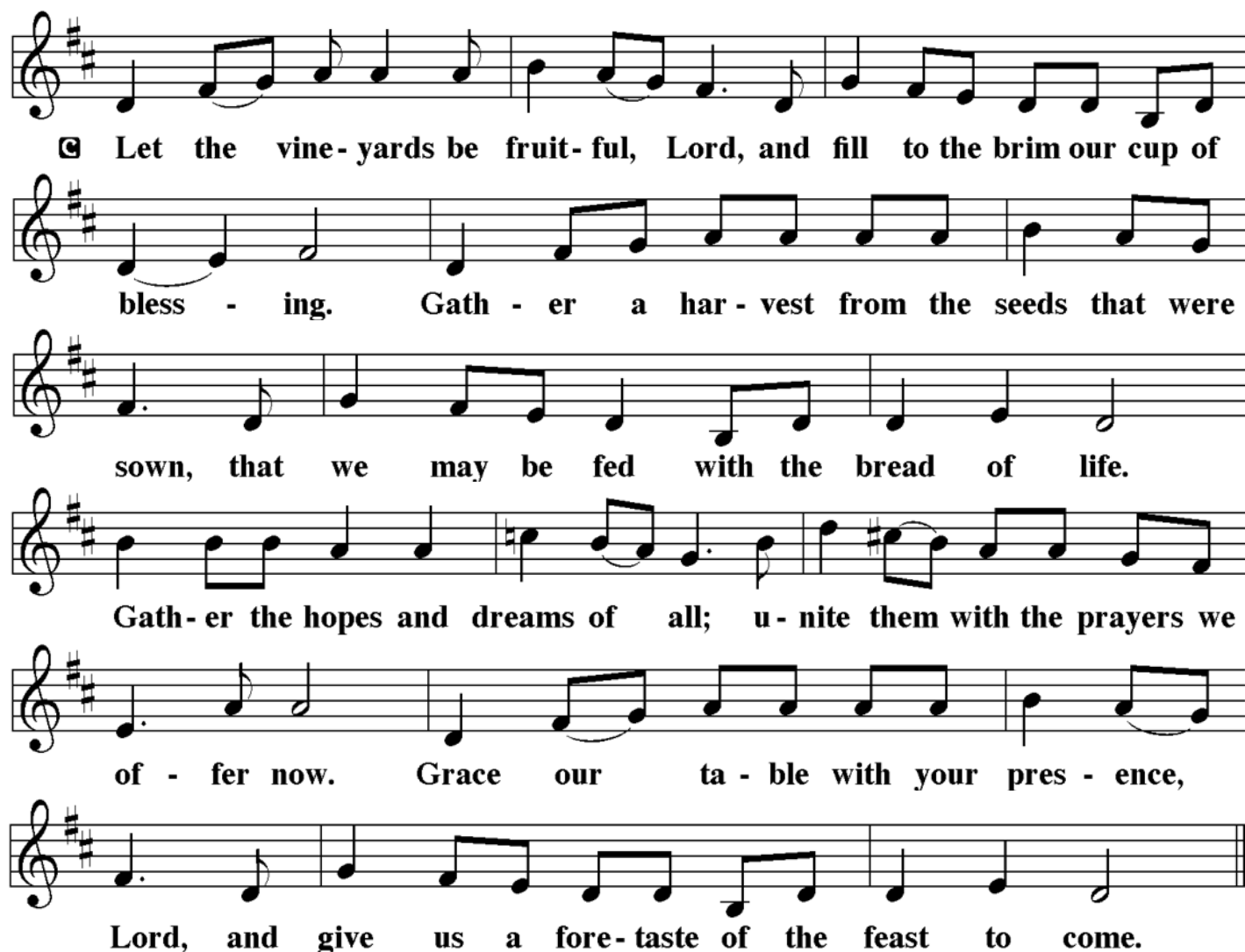
Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

(BEACH SPRING; RESTORATION)

arr. Ed Hogan

tunes – Benjamin F. White; William Walker

OFFERTORY



**Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and
share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We
ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and
forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

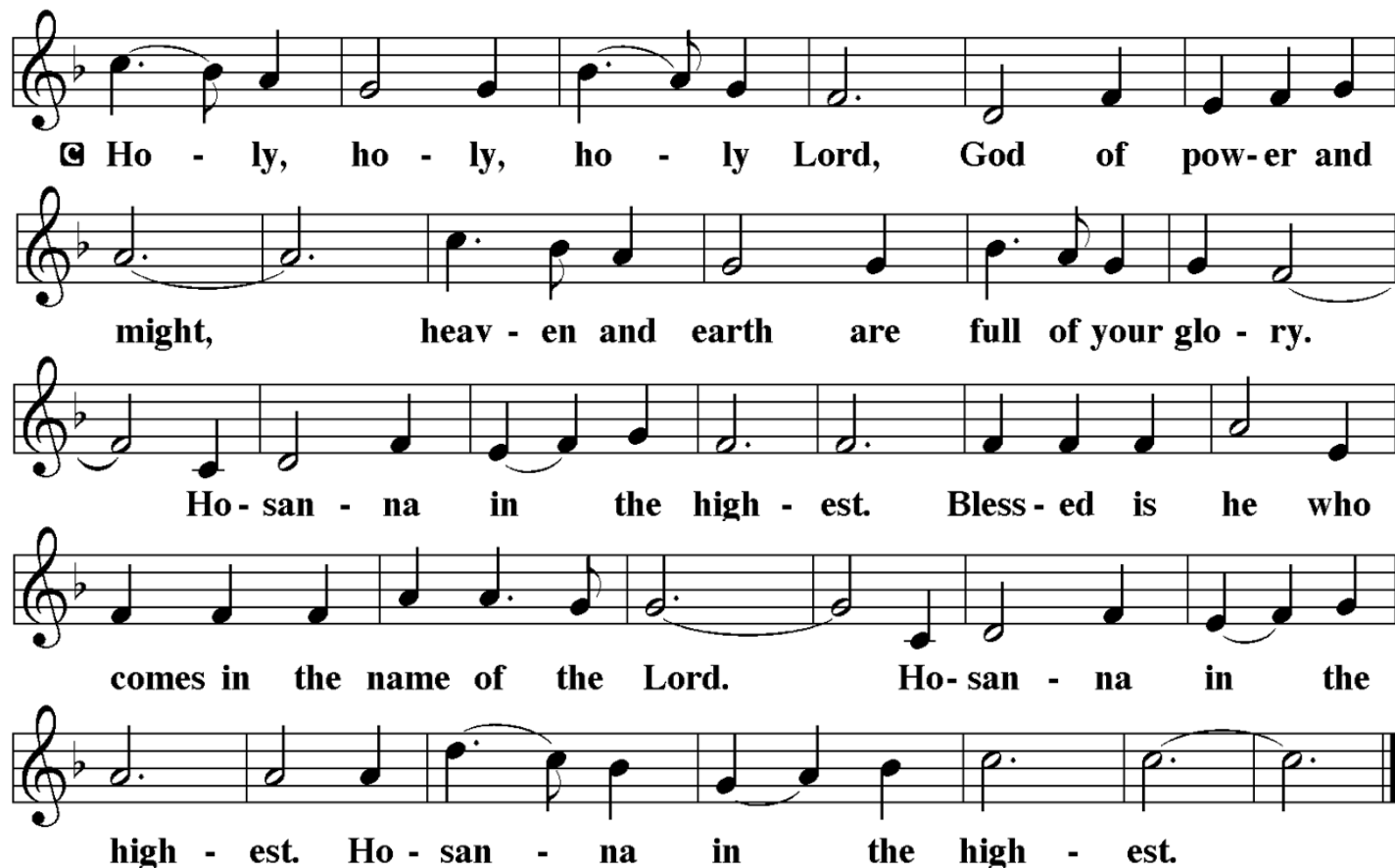
Lift up your hearts.

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:



The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and". The second staff continues with "might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.". The third staff has "Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who". The fourth staff continues with "comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the". The fifth and final staff concludes with "high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many notes beamed together and some longer notes with dots indicating a half note or longer. The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font below the notes.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

We Come Now to Your Table

ACS 970

Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

ACS 1036

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever

Amen.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak	ELW 676
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

(from Voluntary I in D Major)

William Boyce

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:

Sue Cardinal, flute

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: Sandy Squires holds office hours on Wednesdays from 9-1 and is responsive to phone and email Monday through Friday during usual business hours. Please communicate your needs through the church office by phone (585) 223-0634 or by email 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

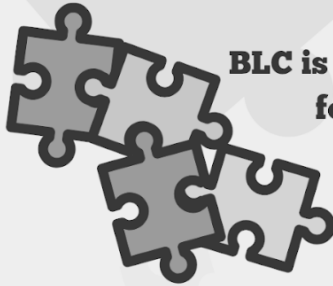
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

PRE-REGISTER NOW!

JULY 20-23, 2026



AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN IN PITTSFORD



**BLC is partnering with St. Paul's, Pittsford again
for this FREE summer's VBS program!
Ages Pre-K-5th Grade**



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“Glory to You, God”, All Creation Sings – Holy Communion, Setting 12, Text: Susan Palo Cherwien
Music: J. Bert Carlson, © 2020 Augsburg Fortress
With One Voice - Holy Communion, Setting Five, Music: Jeremy Young, © 2000, Augsburg Fortress
Gospel Acclamation: “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”, Text and Music: Handt Hanson
© 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.
“Come to the Table”, Text: Claire Cloninger, Music: Martin J. Nystrom
© 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music;, Juniper Landing Music (adm. Word Music)
“We Gather Together – Pastorate on Kremser”, Tune: Dutch folk melody , Music: Robert J. Powell, © 1992 Harold Flammer Music
“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”, Tune: Benjamin F. White – BEACH SPRING, Tune: William Walker - RESTORATION
Arranger: Ed Hogan, © 2010 PsalmSinger Music / BMI (adm. Music Services)
“Trumpet Voluntary” – from Voluntary I in D Major, Music: William Boyce, [In the public domain]

Life in Christ Includes Praise and Lament

Though we may prefer to think of God giving us lives of joy and ease, a full life in Christ also includes sorrow and grief. To the extent we are willing to acknowledge God's presence in every circumstance, our faith becomes integrated and sustainable through a lifetime.

The texts for today offer a survey of faith-full moments for the people of God, from arguably the most disturbing story in all our scriptures (Genesis 22; semicontinuous series) to the proclamation of God's everlasting faithfulness (Psalms 89 and 13).

Does our worship avoid faithful lament?

Marked by transformation as clear and life and death (Romans 6), the disciple naturally embodies the gospel of Jesus Christ. Like it or not, this includes moments of sadness, grief, and betrayal that were very much a part of Jesus' faithful journey. If our lives are identified with Christ, disciples can name both joys and sorrows as dimensions of Christ's story and purpose.

The greatest challenge of faith for most Christians is the moment of suffering, so this day invites us to practice faithful lament. In an age of denial when difficult things are swept under the rug, we may resist the idea that God wants anything to do with suffering. Our scriptures, however, ensure we do not avoid earth-bound realities. The psalmist wails a prayer in faith that not only laments abandonment by God but also confesses God's steadfast love (Psalm 13; semicontinuous series). The story of Abraham and Isaac haunts our imaginations when we expect God to make life easy.

Worship calls us to faithfully lament as well as praise. Let today be a service of full-hearted proclamation of the depths of life in Christ.