



BURLINGTON LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Being God's Love in our
Communities

134 East Victoria Avenue,
Burlington, Washington

Jan 29, 2023
Epiphany 4A

Welcome to worship! In your bulletin there is a Connect Card. Please fill it out if you'd like to sign up for our weekly informational emails and/or communicate with our office or Pastor. For those who would rather not come forward for communion, ushers will provide single-serve communion (grape juice or wine) and a bulletin.

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion. It is good to be together today!

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are on the ancestral homelands of the Upper Skagit peoples. We are grateful for their stewardship of our shared land & waterways since time

immemorial. May we live consciously and respectfully, honoring treaties, and remembering that God created everything and we are to keep it sacred.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

OPENING SONG: “Let Justice Flow Like Streams” ELW 717

**1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.**

**2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.**

**3 So may God's plumb line,
straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace
pervade
this world our whole life through.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one
God,

who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us
confess together.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**we confess that we are wrapped up
in our own wrongdoings,
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your
righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from
you.**

**For the sake of the world you so
love,**

forgive us,

**that we may be reconciled to one
another**

for the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass

and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of †
Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted, and revealing your glory. Amen.

THE READINGS

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,

and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,

and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the LORD has a controversy with the people;

God will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you?

Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,

and redeemed you from the

house of slavery;

and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now
what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor
answered him,

and what happened from Shittim
to Gilgal,

that you may know the saving
acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before
the LORD,

and bow myself before God on
high?

Shall I come before God with burnt
offerings,

with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with
thousands of rams,

with ten thousands of rivers of
oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my
transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of
my soul?”

⁸God has told you, O mortal, what
is good;

and what does the LORD require
of you

but to do justice, and to love
kindness,

and to walk humbly with your
God?

L: The Word of the Lord

C: thanks be to God.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-
31**

¹⁸The message about the cross is
foolishness to those who are

perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise?

Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

²²For some of us demand signs and some of us desire wisdom,

²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to sign-seekers and foolishness to wisdom-seekers,

²⁴but

to those who are the called, both sign-seekers and wisdom-seekers, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, siblings: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God, ³⁰who is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from

God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L: The Word of the Lord

C: thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” ELW 172

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

(repeat)

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you

falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: “Do Justice”

Racing around, chasing idols

unfulfilled empty vessels

World on the edge, out of control,

will we survive, God only knows

Chorus:

Do justice, love mercy,

walk humbly with our God,

with our God

(2x)

**People broken, falling pieces,
dignity lost, loving ceases
Hopeless eyes, lonely faces,
yearning hearts, hurting places
*(Chorus)***

**Deadly hunger, desperate crying,
wounded living , children dying
Nails in the flesh, piercing fear,
why can't we see Christ hanging here
*(Chorus)***

**BLC CHURCH COUNCIL
COMMISSIONING**

**A hearty thank you to those who
stepped off of council in 2022!!**

*Grant Burwash, Astrid Aamot, Steven
Grant, Rachel Reim-Ledbetter*

2023 BLC Church Council & Financial Secretary

Rochelle Hill (President), Brad Dana (Vice President), Janice Burwash (Secretary), Millie Fosberg (Treasurer), Jeremy Dierst, Nancy Hill Hoffman, David Svaren, John White, and Eva Yeoman. Linda Rudy is our Financial Secretary.

These wonderful people have accepted the call to oversight of the church. We are thankful for their willingness to serve, guiding us in our mutual mission as a congregation.

The following are some of your responsibilities:

- . You are to see that the words and deeds of this church reflect the goodness of God.
- . You are to faithfully, prayerfully, and thoughtfully guide and steward our mission to be God's love in our communities.
- . You are to keep us fiscally responsible, be diligent with your specific duties, and to be ambassadors for this congregation.
- . You are also to laugh with, honor, and support one another.

On behalf of those who call BLC their church, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected and called?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of BLC, I ask you:

Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your assistance, and your prayers?

Congregation: We will, and we ask God to help us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome to light a candle during the prayers.

When the reader says, "We bring you our prayers," the congregation sings:

**Hear our prayer, hear our prayer,
Lord, make us whole:**

**Peace to all people, hope for each
soul.**

**God of grace, in this place,
Hear now our prayer.**

OFFERING

Online giving is also available at burlingtonlutheran.org, Venmo @Burlington-Lutheran, the Vanco Mobile app or by texting 360-727-0807.

MUSIC DURING OFFERING:

performed by Lynne Berg

Offering Prayer

Liberating God,

you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.

Receive these offerings in
thanksgiving

for all your works of merciful power,

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom, through Jesus our Savior, **Amen.**

COMMUNION

At Burlington Lutheran Church we celebrate open table communion which means the table is open to ALL, no exceptions. Today we are receiving communion in our seats, with offerings of both wine, juice and gluten free wafers. Come, taste and see that God is good!

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Communion

The Prayer of Jesus

Our loving God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

**Music During Communion: “When
the Poor Ones” ELW 725**

Prayer after Communion

Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from
this table.

Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

**SENDING SONG: “Be Thou My Vision”
ELW 793**

**1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my
heart;**

**naught be all else to me, save that
thou art:**

**thou my best thought both by day
and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence
my light.**

**2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my
true word;**

**I ever with thee and thou with
me, Lord.**

**Thou my soul's shelter, and thou
my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O
Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty
praise,**

**thou mine inheritance, now and
always:**

**thou and thou only, the first in my
heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure
thou art.**

**4 Light of my soul, after victory
won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O
heaven's Sun!**

**Heart of my own heart, whatever
befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace and follow the way of
Jesus.**

Thanks be to god.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Charis Weathers & Musician Sean Bendickson

UPCOMING BLC EVENTS

February 5: Birthday Sunday

Come down to the fellowship hall after worship for a celebration of one year of Pastor Charis and everyone’s birthday

February 9: Quilting Group @ 9:00am

Join BLC members for a quilting group, all are Welcome! Every Second Thursday of the month.

February 12: Church 2.0: Contemplative Prayer

Building on the success of Bible Bumpers, in 2023 we will be offering a variety of gatherings and activities after church, about once a month. The activity will begin shortly after fellowship time begins, and will last from 45 minutes to a little over an hour. Many of the gatherings will be in the new library!

February 19: Let's Go Together @ 3:00pm

A program helping Christian communities form partnerships with diverse traditions and cultures for a more peaceful future.

February 21: Women's Bible Study @ 10:00am

*Join us for a monthly bible study group hosted by the women of BLC
All are welcome! Every Third Tuesday of the month.*

March 2: Sewing Community @ 4:00pm

Come to BLC to participate in our sewing community, people of all skill levels are welcome!



BEING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

We are all God's beloved children and are recipients of God's radical love and grace.

All are welcome in this church community. You are welcome here if you have ever felt excluded or judged because of your gender, ethnicity, race, religion, status, ability, sexual orientation, doubts or questions. We are a community committed to racial equity, and we believe in Jesus' commandments to love God and love neighbor. Join us!

Matthew 22: 37-39



BURLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

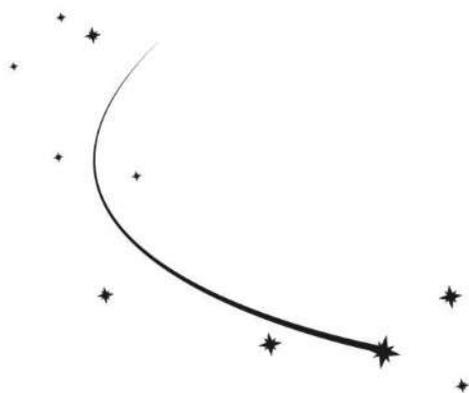
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