



Burlington Lutheran Church

Baptism of Jesus

134 E Victoria Ave, Burlington, WA
January 19, 2025

Burlington Lutheran Church

134 East Victoria Avenue Burlington, Washington

Sunday Worship 10am

Children's Church after the Children's Message

Nursery available downstairs for all children aged four and younger

The mission of Burlington Lutheran is "Being God's Love in our Communities"

Welcome! It is good to be together today!

- We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, which means welcome is extended to all to become partners in the full life and ministry of Burlington Lutheran, regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, socioeconomic status, or any other societal or religious barrier.
- If you'd like to communicate with the church office and/or Pastor Charis (such as a request to meet, address change, prayer request, signing up for weekly enews, etc), please fill out the yellow contact sheet in your bulletin and drop in an offering plate.
- *Absolutely all are welcome to the communion table.* In addition to homemade bread, gluten free crackers are available. Individual pre-filled glass cups of wine (red) and juice (white) are provided. If you'd rather not come forward to receive communion please ask an usher for a single-use communion kit.
- A gender neutral restroom is to the right as you exit the sanctuary, and another is down the stairs, past the entrance to the fellowship hall.
- If you or your child need a quiet place to be during worship, you are welcome to use the room behind the sound board. In the quiet room you can hear and see the worship service, there is comfortable seating, a diaper changing station, and toys for small children.
- This worship service is livestreamed on both Facebook and YouTube. If you prefer not to be shown on camera, you are invited to sit in the last four rows on the main floor, or in the balcony. During communion backs are visible.
- Please ask an usher if you have any questions!

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are on the ancestral homelands of the Upper Skagit peoples. We are grateful for their stewardship of these lands and waterways since time immemorial. Our faith leads us to honor treaties, build authentic and mutual relationship, and remember that God created our shared world and together we are to keep it sacred.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

See back of bulletin for calendar of upcoming events

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather:

as a community of faith in the Creator's world.

We gather to celebrate and to remember

that love will always be more powerful than death,

and to trust that

peace will always be stronger than violence.

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: "Gather Us In" ELW 532

- 1** Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

- 2** We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

- 3** Here we will take the wine and the water,

**here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Prophets speak of the coming light of God, which calls all the people of the earth to come together in God's realm of shalom.

Let us confess the ways in which we have refused or denied God's vision of wholeness.

**God of both light and darkness,
we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us,
but we have turned away and followed other paths.
We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart,
with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Holy One, forgive us and strengthen our hesitant steps,
guiding us in your holy way of peace.**

The grace of God is poured out with abundance into our lives.

Receive forgiveness. Start anew.

In gratitude we pray,

come, Jesus, now and every day, to heal this world

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of grace and glory, you call to us to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. We ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

THE READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ But here is my servant, the one I uphold;
my chosen, who brings me delight.

I've put my spirit upon him;
he will bring justice to the nations.

² He won't cry out or shout aloud
or make his voice heard in public.

³ He won't break a bruised reed;
he won't extinguish a faint wick,
but he will surely bring justice.

⁴ He won't be extinguished or broken
until he has established justice in the land.
The coastlands await his teaching.

⁵ God says—
the one who created the heavens,
the one who stretched them out,
the one who spread out the earth and its offspring,
the one who gave breath to its people
and life to those who walk on it—

⁶ I, God the Almighty, have called you for a good reason.
I will grasp your hand and guard you,
and give you as a covenant to the people,
as a light to the nations,

⁷ to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

⁸ I am the LORD;
that is my name;
I don't hand out my glory to others
or my praise to idols.

⁹ The things announced in the past—look—they've already happened,
but I'm declaring new things.
Before they even appear,
I tell you about them.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Epiphany Alleluia" by Sean Bendickson

Alleluia, you are the light of the world.

Alleluia, you are the light of the world.

You are the light that shines in the darkness

The light no darkness can overcome.

Alleluia, you are the light of the world.

Alleluia, you are the light of the world.

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

15 As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

21 Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY: "Spirit of Gentleness" ELW 395

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."**

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.**

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;**

**Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.**

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.**

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

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:

**The Lord is my light
My light and salvation
In God I trust,
In God I trust.
(2x)**

Blessing of the Hats

Merciful One, as winter settles in Skagit County,
we ask for warmth for those who have inadequate shelter.

Bring hope to those who need it,
as well as safety, protection, and encouragement.

Help us to restore justice to systems that oppress,
lead us to speak up for others, to be generous givers.

As these hats provide warmth for cold heads,
may they also provide warmth to the heart.

Give these hats many months and years of usefulness,
getting into the hands of those who need them.

Bless the Point in Time Count, all the efforts of those who are involved;
may it help bring positive change in our county and beyond. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of God be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

OFFERING

Online giving is also available at burlingtonlutheran.org, Venmo @burlingtonlutheran, the Vanco Mobile app, or by Paypal at burlingtonlutheran@gmail.com. If you give electronically, you are invited to drop an online giving card (found in the pew) into the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity in giving!

MUSIC DURING OFFERING: "Always" by Jon Foreman

Offering Prayer

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of all life,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

COMMUNION

At Burlington Lutheran Church we celebrate open table communion which means the table is open to ALL, no exceptions. For those who would rather not come forward for communion, ushers will provide single-serve communion (grape juice or wine). If you are joining us online, please gather your communion elements at this time. Come, taste and see that God is good!

Great Thanksgiving & Holy Communion

(To the tune of All Creatures of Our God and King)

Our Creator is with you

And Creator dwells with you, Alleluia, Alleluia

Lift up your hearts to our God

We lift them up and offer thanks
It is right to praise Creator
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

On the night Jesus was betrayed
At a shared table the Lord stayed
Alleluia, alleluia
He took the bread, said this is me
Blessed, broke and shared it, take and eat
Christ is here now, at this table
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

After they ate Christ took the cup
Blessed, to the heavens held it up
Alleluia, alleluia
This is my blood that's shared for you
A covenant of love come true
Christ is here now, at this table
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Christ said with bread remember me
And share this meal eternally
Alleluia, alleluia
All are welcome at this feast
Bread, cup, and love, come and receive
Christ is here now, at this table
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Prayer of Jesus

(You are invited to say your heart's version of the Lord's Prayer)

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: "O Living Breath of God" ELW 407

Prayer after Communion

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in pain and in joy and in hope,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

In this season of Epiphany,
May the path that Christ walks
to bring justice upon the earth,
to bring light to those who sit in darkness,
to bring out those who live in bondage,
to bring new things to all creation:
may this path run through our life.
May we be the road Christ takes.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: "Hallelujah" by Brenton Brown, Brian Doerksen

1 Your love is amazing
Steady and unchanging
Your love is a mountain
Firm beneath my feet
Your love is a myst'ry
How You gently lift me
When I am surrounded
Your love carries me

Chorus

Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
Your love makes me sing
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
Your love makes me sing

2 Your love is surprising
I can feel it rising
All the joy that's growing
Deep inside of me
Ev'ry time I see You
All Your goodness shines through
I can feel this God song
Rising up in me

Chorus

Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
Your love makes me sing

**Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
Your love makes me sing**

Interlude

**Yes You make me sing
Lord You make me sing sing sing
How You make me sing**

Chorus

**Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
Your love makes me sing
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
Your love makes me sing**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, following the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Charis Weathers & Sean Bendickson

Call to Worship adapted from work by Cheryl Lawrie on holdthinspace.org.au

Confession and Forgiveness adapted from the Rev. Nancy J, on her blog, wonderings, writings, and scribbles

Blessing from Jan Richardson, The Painted Prayerbook website

Communion Liturgy by Rebecca Joy Summer, adapted

WELCOME VISITORS!

Welcome to BLC. We are so thankful you are worshipping with us and we pray that you feel the deep presence of God and the welcome of God's people in this place. You are invited to speak with any of our worship leaders after the service, or you may contact us at burlingtonlutheran@gmail.com



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



UPCOMING BLC EVENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- Jan 20: MLK Day of Service, 10am - 1pm
- Jan 21: ELCA Racial Healing Online Event, 8am - noon
- Jan 23: High School Group, 5:30pm
- Jan 25: BLC Council Retreat, 9am - 3pm
- Jan 26: Reconciling in Christ Sunday
- Jan 26: Potluck and Birthday celebration after church!
- Jan 26: BLC Youth Group (5th - 7th grade), 5:00pm
- Jan 30: Point in Time survey gathering at BLC, 8am - 1pm (150 hats project!)
- Feb 2: Bishop Shelley preaching
- Feb 6: Sewing Community, 4 - 8pm
- Feb 23: Congregational Meeting after Church ****SAVE THE DATE****



BURLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

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