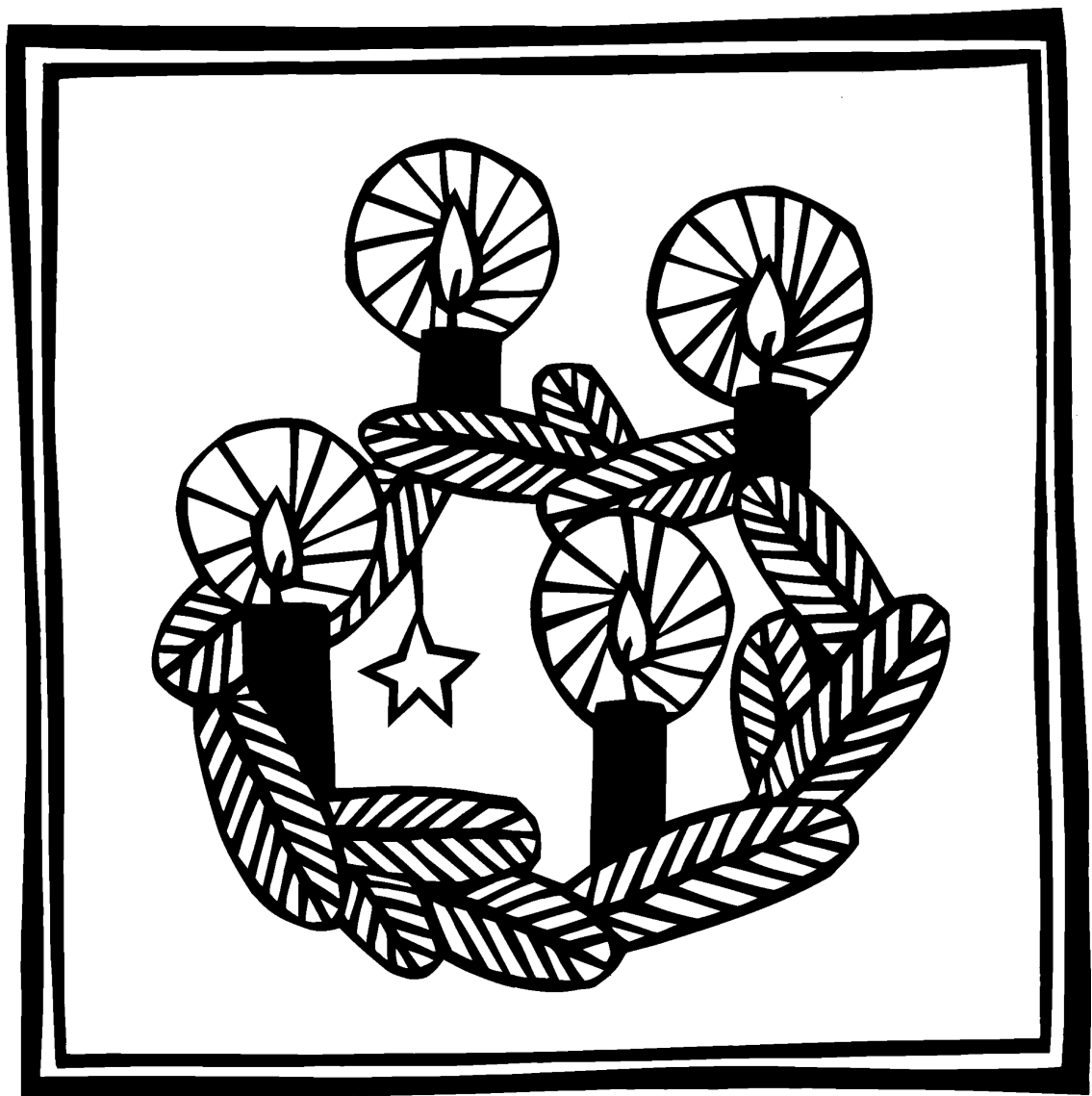




Sunday, November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen, op. 122, no.11
(Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming)

Johannes Brahms
tune, German hymn, 15th cent.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
(HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG)

Paul Manz
tune, Swedish folk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent marks the ending and beginning of the church year and during this time, we return to our foundation – GOD MATTERS. God's love and faithfulness endure through all our endings and beginnings. Our weekly scripture readings ground us in the stories of God whose was, who is, and who is to come. As we encounter the familiar characters of the story of Christ's birth – Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, the shepherds, the magi – we see the facets of God that can help us see and understand God's living presence in each of us and deepen our connection to our source of life.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

text, Geonyong Lee / tr. Marion Pope
music, Geonyong Lee

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
to you all hearts are open, to you all desires are known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.
✠ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	Savior of the Nations, Come	ELW 263
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Stanzas: 1, 2: All

3: Women

4: Men

5, 6: All

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

The prophet Isaiah said, "the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28)

We rejoice that we too have found favor with God.

God's mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

And so we join Mary in her song.



1. Kin - dle this flame of Christ. May it burn bright and true.

2. God's realm is our de - sire, where peace and jus - tice reign.



Light-ing the way that is of God, the jour - ney we pur - sue.

Hea - ven and earth com - bined as one, when Christ shall come a - gain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS AND JOY!

*All kids ages 3 through elementary are welcome to a special time of hearing the Word, conversation and activity! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in designated spaces. **Worship for Kids** (Ages 3 – Grade 2) meets across the hall from the sanctuary and **JOY!** (Grades 3 – 5) meets downstairs. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.*

READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al-might - y,
we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Unexpected and Mysterious	ELW 258
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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.

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

#1 God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Give us the courage to open our hearts to one another, to seek connection rather than division, and to seek justice in your name. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 God of the earth, empower us to be good stewards of the earth and its abundance. Teach us to see and praise you in the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the cultures, values, accomplishments and spirituality of Native Americans who continue to shape our nation and church; 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 in need of healing, especially:

- Tom S, who is recovering from an infection.
- Owen, grandson of Cathy F's friend, diagnosed with brain tumor.

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.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

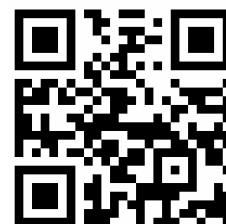
And also with you.

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

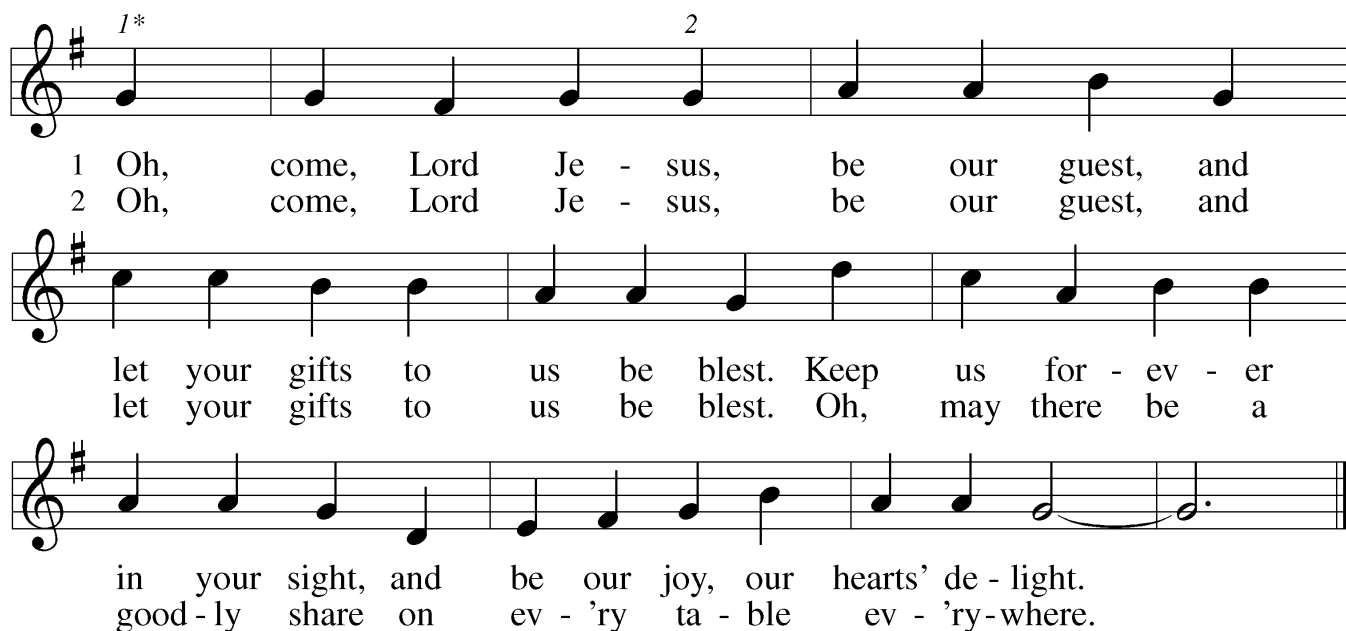
There Is No Rose

words, anon. 15th cent.
music, Philip WJ Stopford

Vocal Octet

OFFERTORY

1* 2



1 Oh, come, Lord Je - sus, be our guest, and
2 Oh, come, Lord Je - sus, be our guest, and

let your gifts to us be blest. Keep us for - ev - er
let your gifts to us be blest. Oh, may there be a

in your sight, and be our joy, our hearts' de - light.
good - ly share on ev - 'ry ta - ble ev - 'ry - where.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God,
**you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal,
satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of
your kingdom come. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

As we gather at Christ's table of mercy, the Spirit and the church cry out:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

All those who await his appearance pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The whole creation pleads:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Long-expected Jesus, we come to your table and ask you to meet us here.
Open our hearts to believe that you come to us in this meal of grace. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In fervent hope, we raise our voices in prayer 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**

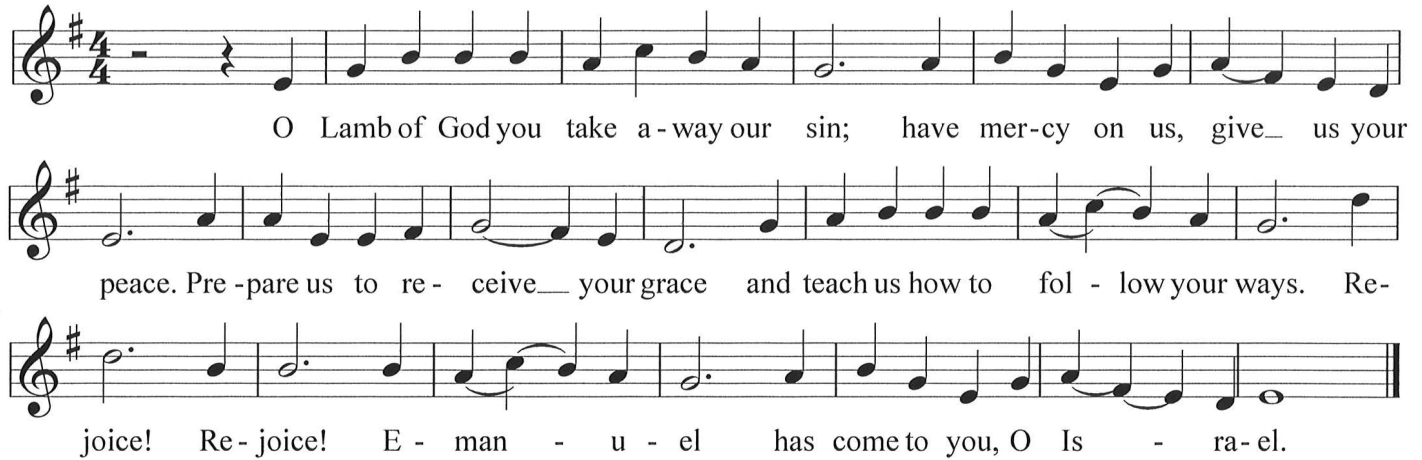
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.
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



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give us your
peace. Pre-pare us to re-ceive your grace and teach us how to fol-low your ways. Re-
joice! Re-joice! E-man-u-el has come to you, O Is-ra-el.

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW 265
ELW 490

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Make your heart ready.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Wachet auf”

(Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying)

David Polley
tune, Philipp Nicolai

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“Come, Lord Jesus” Text: traditional table prayer, adapt. Susan Briehl; Music: tallis’ canon, Thomas Tallis
Text © 1996 Augsburg Fortress

“Lamb of God” – based on VENI, EMMANUEL; Music: French processional, 15th cent.
Text: adapt. David Eck; Text © 2011 David Eck

“Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen” – op.122/11 (Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming); Music: Johannes Brahms; Tune: German hymn, 15th cent.

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” Music: Paul Manz; Tune: Swedish folk – HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG

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Come Now, O Prince of Peace Text: Geonyong Lee / tr. Marion Pope; Music: Geonyong Lee; Text and Music © Geonyong Lee

“The Nativity” Words: Gary L. Lake Dillensnyder; Music: Robert Jackson - TRENTHAM

Words © 2009 Gary L. Lake Dillensnyder (adm. The General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN)

“There Is No Rose” Words: anon. 15th century; Music: Philip WJ Stopford © www.philipstopford.com

“Wachet auf” – (Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying) Music: David Polley; Tune: Philipp Nicolai © 1986 McAfee Music Corporation

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:

The Chancel Bells

The Chancel Choir

Vocal Octet: Chrisanne Gates, Kris Kerr, Nancy Price, Robert Stock

Rich Towsley, Amy Walter-Peterson, Hans Walter-Peterson

Dave Wideman

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!

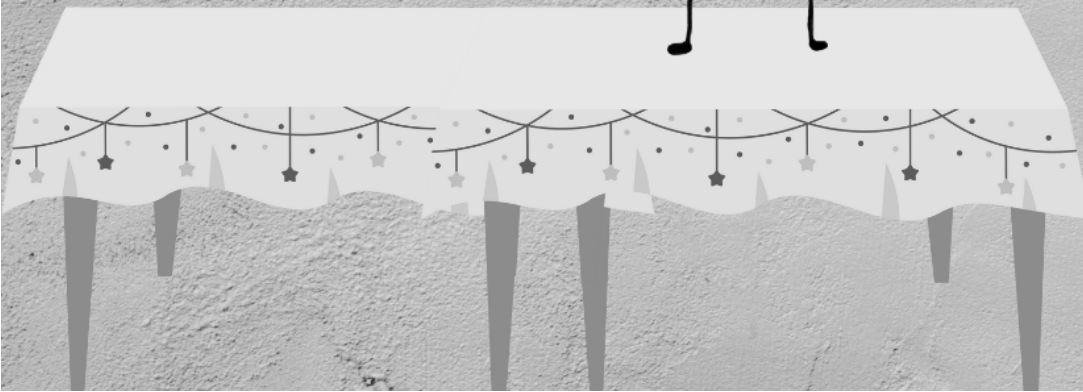
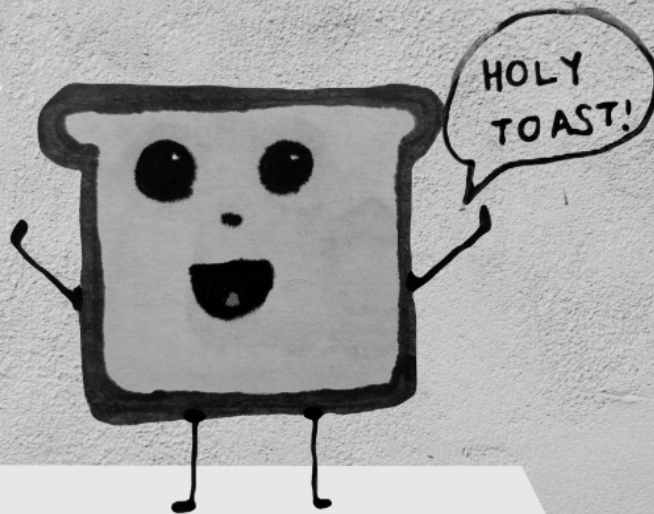
Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

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

Sunday Table December 7th

Join us in the
Fellowship Hall
for brunch and
Advent crafts.



Support Groups

Meet every two Tuesdays



**GRIEF SUPPORT
GROUP,
11 AM**



**LIFE
HAPPENS
SUPPORT
GROUP,
2 PM**

Next Meeting - December 2

Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 18

This service makes space for difficult emotions like grief and anxiety during the holiday season.

If you have lost a loved one, feel weighed down by worry, or if Christmas is a challenging season for you, this service is for you. Sanctuary opens at 6:30 pm for quiet reflection.

Worship begins at 7:00 pm and includes prayer, communion, and candle lighting.



Prayer for the First Sunday in Advent

Lord! Going out from this silence, teach me to be more alert, humble, expectant, than I have been in the past: ever ready to encounter you in quiet, homely ways: in every appeal to my compassion, every act of unselfish love which shows up and humbles my imperfect love, may I recognize you: still walking through the world. Give me that grace of simplicity which alone can receive your mystery. Come and abide with me! Meet me, walk with me! Enlighten my mind! And then, Come in! Enter my humble life with its poverty and limitations as you entered the stable of Bethlehem, the workshop of Nazareth, the cottage of Emmaus. Bless and consecrate the material of that small and ordinary life. Amen.

—from *The Complete Book of Christian Prayer* (New York: The Continuum International Publishing Group, Inc., 2000), p. 217.

This prayer was written by Evelyn Underhill (1875–1941), a widely acknowledged English scholar and author of such pioneering works as *Mysticism*, *The Ways of the Spirit*, and *Worship*, a study of the liturgical practices of a number of church traditions. She was a pioneer in the British retreat movement.