



Sunday, December 6 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

Advent coincides with the longest stretches of darkness we experience in the entire year (at least for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere!) The days grow shorter and shorter during the month of December, lengthening again only three days before we celebrate the birth of Christ, the Light of the world. For many, this shrinking window of daylight can feel like a shrinking window of the Light – especially this year, so full of anxiety and uncertainty brought on by the pandemic, political upheaval, and more. Advent this year gives us all the

more reason to Watch for the Light – keeping vigilant in seeking out and ushering in the glimpses of the Light of Christ that is coming into the world. Share with the whole community of faith in listening to God’s Word, sharing stories and testifying to the Light, and bringing the Light of Christ into our homes and our lives this season

Prelude: Partita on “People, Look East” (ELW #248)

Joseph Bertolozzi

Gathering Words and Welcome

Narthex Chat with Pastor Hoffman & Colleen Sousa

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

If possible, prepare your worship space with your Advent log or wreath with four candles (one for each week of the season) and a bowl of water. The presence of water reminds us of God's forgiveness that comes to us through the Sacrament of Baptism. During this time of continued physical distancing, we cling with confident hope to the promise that by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness:

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all time,
we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant

us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Children of God, in † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles – The Morrissette Family

Light two of your Advent candles today to mark the second week of Advent.

God of all creation, John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Make us watchful as we light two candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn :

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#254



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Children's Moment

Offering of Music: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Mike Koncilja, piano)

arr. Chip Davis

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹²The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But

the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

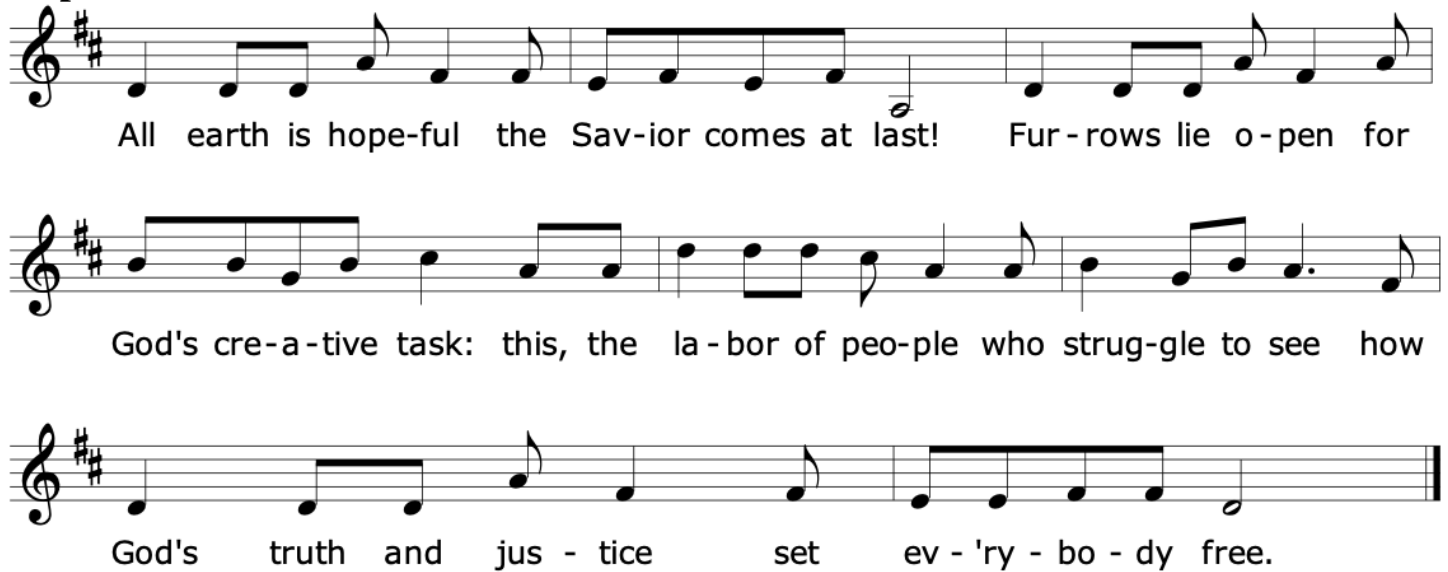
¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



All earth is hope-ful the Sav-ior comes at last! Fur-rows lie o-pen for
God's cre-a-tive task: this, the la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bo-dy free.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after

me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

#255



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



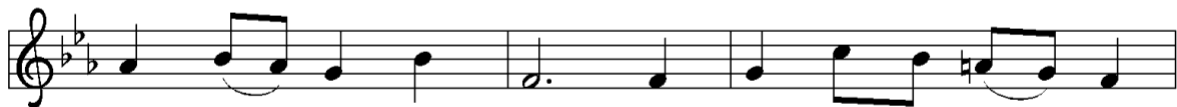
call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

The Nicene Creed:

As we wait for Christ's coming, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People:

In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those whose needs are known to us listed below. You may also lift up the name of someone in need of prayer in the comments of our worship livestream.

As we await the coming of the Christ child, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Lord, bless our leaders of our church, including Bishop Eaton, Bishop Macholz, Pastor Amy, Pastor Hoffman, our staff Beth, Susie, Jim, Annette, and Bethany and our Council and committee members. Give them wisdom, strength, and perseverance to follow your call. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with our political leaders and scientists, medical staff and all those involved in helping fight the pandemic. Comfort those who are infected and either hospitalized or sick at home. Clear the way for the vaccine to be distributed swiftly and fairly. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the congregation of Bethlehem and for your church around the world. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Bryan & Lynn (Calvin & Emma), Joe, Frank & Gabrielle, Gerald, Paul & Gwen. We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you know our needs better than we ourselves. Hear the prayers we offer now.

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

- Alva (mother of Dale) who died on 12/1 after 105 years of life
- Paul (family friend of Mary) who died on 11/21

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Dick (brother of Sherry) undergoing treatment for stage 4 melanoma
- Matthew (son of Mary friend Helen) who has suffered multiple health challenges, and also Matthew's sons, who are currently being cared for by Helen
- Jerry (brother of Bob) who was hospitalized and released and awaits gall bladder surgery
- Lisa (friend of Pr. Amy) who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and begins treatment this week
- Sue (friend of Hans & Pr. Amy) whose cancer continues to spread without treatment options. She's has begun hospice care at home.
- Jack (brother-in-law of Bill), hospitalized with a severe leg infection
- Danielle who has been diagnosed with melanoma and began treatment on 11/30
- Rose (niece of Toni)
- Jim (father of Hans), who resumes chemotherapy following a re-assessment of recent test results.
- Wayne (father-in-law of Mary) recently hospitalized with sepsis and now receiving daily treatment.
- Glen recovering from surgery on 11/24, preparing to begin radiation treatment
- Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers
 - Brian
 - Sydney
 - Sara

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear also these prayers we raise to you either silently in our hearts or with our voice. God of mercy,

hear our prayer

Receive these petitions, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL

The Peace:

Giving thanks that we become brothers and sisters in Christ through the gift of baptism, we share God's peace with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Offering

Though we meet virtually, the ministry of God's people at BLC continues.

Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. This time of uncertainty and reduced physical contact gives us ever more opportunities to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you are able, please continue your financial commitment to BLC.

If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.



Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offering of Music:

Advent Prayer

Mark Patterson

(BLC Youth Choir, Director, Annette Finkbeiner, Susan DePasquale, Piano)

Offertory:	<i>Accept O Lord the Gifts We Bring</i>	#691
------------	---	------



Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble. We
Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord,



do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're ab - le
by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Savior of the nations come,

make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives witness to your light. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer:

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,

you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages

your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,

we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share:

strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

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:

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Distribution of Communion:

All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. We invite you to make your way to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY until 11 am this morning. All participants are expected to wear masks. When you arrive, please use the main entrance of the church and ushers will direct you to the communion table. Those who need the assistance of the lift are welcome to use the Perrin Street entrance. When you are ready to receive the bread and wine, you may remove your mask. Children and others who do not commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the worship assistant.

When you have received communion, you are invited to conclude today's liturgy with your household.

Post-Communion Prayer:

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, witnessing to your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing:

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Calendar for week of December 6 – December 13

(Updated on 12/2/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday in Advent

8:30 am Facebook Livestream
Worship followed by Holy Communion – the sanctuary will be open for people to receive communion until 11 am
11:00 am Zoom* Coffee with a Pastor & Colleen Sousa
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, December 7

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 208
7:00 pm Zoom* GFL Confirmation
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, December 8

4:30 pm Zoom* Education Planning Meeting
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
6:30 pm Virtual Reopening Team
([Join](#) use ID 8246 235 3239)

Wednesday, December 9

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)
6:00 pm Zoom* Mission & Social Concerns
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, December 10

Friday, December 11

Pastor's Sabbath

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group Rehearsal

Saturday, December 12

9:15 am Property Committee
2:00 pm LYO (and alum!) Hike at Mendon Ponds

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 am Facebook Livestream
Worship
10:00 am Zoom* Pre-K to 2nd Grade Monthly Meet-Up
([Join](#) or use ID 853 8991 1172)
11:00 am Zoom* Coffee with a Pastor and Jim & Shannon Oliverio
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

For additional details about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

***To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

***Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

Prophecy, Patience, and Promise

Advent is a season of expectation, the word itself meaning “coming.” Many families spend these four weeks waiting for children to come home from college, or for grandparents to come for Christmas dinner. For young children, these days of waiting can seem like a thousand years. Others are amazed at how quickly time is flying, as they sense the end of their own lives drawing near. In the interval, stories from the past are told and retold as a way of remembering the significance of these waiting days.

The arrival scripture speaks of is both more profound and more sublime. It is the coming end of a way of being that has seemed like exile, like imprisonment. It is salvation from all that has torn us and our world apart. As we wait alongside the readers of Mark’s gospel, we too hear voices from the past in the prophetic words of Isaiah (and Malachi and Exodus) that prepare us to receive the one who is coming into the world: Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 1:1).

As with any long period of waiting, we know that the final days are the hardest to bear. We struggle to understand why we ourselves, never mind the rest of creation, must wait any longer for the salvation and redemption God has promised. Our salvation is bound up with one another’s though, and we are reminded that God has been patient with us, “not wanting any to perish” (2 Peter 3:9). We therefore practice patience with God as we remain steadfast in hope and lead lives of holiness and godliness worthy of the new era that is coming (2 Peter 3:11-12).

Confession from Sundays and Seasons Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.

From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43732.

Permission to stream and print the music in this service obtained from OneLicense under Annual License #A-724002

Reprinted by permission under CCLI Annual License #11159563

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education

Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.