



Sunday, January 3 ~ *Epiphany of Our Lord*

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

Prelude: Prelude on "Morning Star" (ELW #303) G. Winston Cassler
 Prelude on "Wie schön leuchtet" (ELW #308) Russell Schulz-Widmar

Gathering Words and Welcome

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

If possible, prepare a worship space in your home with 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, the Creator, the Beloved One, the Comforter.
Amen.

Beloved in the Lord: we confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

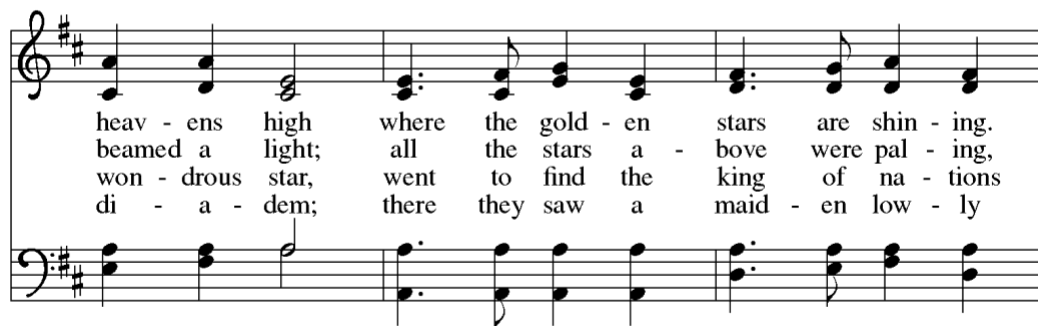
We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins – those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How vast is God’s grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God’s own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God’s forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ’s justice and the Spirit’s reconciling peace.

Amen.



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the Word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Greeting:

God who sent the Light into our world, God who shone in the Bethlehem manger, God who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

²May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.

³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

⁵May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.

⁷In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.

¹¹May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

¹²For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Love Has Come #292, vs 3

Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev - er - last-ing and free. Love is
Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love!
Love! Love is the gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high! _____

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they

saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Drawn to the Light

#593



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -



lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

Refrain



Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a



sight to be drawn to the light of God.

The Apostles' Creed:

Together 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:

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.

Though physically distant, you call us into unity with one another and the whole creation. Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior, and for the everlasting love and light that he has brought to this world. Fill us with your loving spirit and let it flow through us into the lives of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you for this New Year, and we pray that it brings new hope. Amidst the world's turmoil, help us to remember the simple pleasures - a sunrise, a sunset, a walk in the woods. Help us to stay focused on our faith, and to welcome each new day with appreciation for the blessings of your love. Remind us to take the time to notice Your goodness throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the congregation of Bethlehem and for your church around the world. Today we pray for these five families: Jim & Alli (Paul & Paige), Karen (Jonathan), Martha, Chad,

Jordan, Rachael & Jacob (Clara & Levi), John & Laurie, David, Seth. We also pray for our brothers and sisters in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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:

- Marjorie Miller who died on 12/20

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- 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

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hear also these prayers we raise to you in our hearts or with our voice.

Silence

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, in your deep compassion, receive these prayers we offer to you 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: In The Bleak Midwinter / Away In a Manger

G. Holst/Cradle Song

Arr. by Phil Perkins

(Marsha Gerhardt, piano)

Offertory:

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

#680 vs. 3



We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good, the
seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food. No
gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts but
what you most would trea - sure: our - hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. O God,

receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. 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:

Beloved: The light of Christ came into our world and shines in the darkness. Come now to feast at Christ's table.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion:



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

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:

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

Amen.

Blessing:

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

Amen.

Calendar for week of January 3 – January 10

(Last updated on 12/22/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, January 3 **Epiphany Sunday**

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship followed by Holy Communion – the sanctuary will be open for people to receive communion until 11 am
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, January 4

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, January 5 **BLC Office Closed****

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
7:00 pm Lenten Devotional
Planning Meeting

Wednesday, January 6

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)
3:00 pm Education Planning Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, January 7

10:00 am Zoom* CMT
([Join](#) or use ID 825 5536 5823)
6:30 pm Zoom* BLC Officers

Friday, January 8

No Folk Group Today
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group Rehearsal

Saturday, January 9

9:15 am Property Committee

Sunday, January 10 **Baptism of Our Lord**

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Coffee & Crucial Conversation hosted by the Pastors
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office on Tuesdays from January 5 – March 10. Pastor Amy remains available on Tuesdays and can be reached by phone when she is not in the church office.**

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.**

This Radiance Marks Our True Home

Humans have an almost universal longing for home. We long for those memories of security or comfort, we long for familiar paths and sidewalks and the old oak tree in the back yard. We long for what was, knowing we can never return once we have been changed by life. For some this means we live forever as wanderers and refugees. In the gospel text, Jesus and his family are refugees far from their home in Galilee. Shortly after the events in this text they will leave for Egypt, fleeing from Herod's persecutions and becoming political refugees.

Still, no matter where we are or how far we travel, as Christians we are always home. Even secular notions of home are more about what physical location *means* to us, rather than mere location. This is particularly true for us as God's people. For the children of God, home is less place than it is *experience* of the presence of God. It is the glory and wonder of a restored Jerusalem, and as Isaiah promises: "Then you shall see and be radiant" (Isa. 60:5). Home is being in the company of God's people gathered from the ends of the earth and dining together. Home is that holy place in the presence of God where everyone has a place at the table and all are treated equally.

This is a home everyone can recognize and everyone can experience. This is a home for those whose families are broken, a home for those who are homeless, a home for all people. This is the place Jesus creates for us. So we travel on, with a star to guide us, until finally that star shines down on our home. We enter slowly, maybe even with trepidation, and are overwhelmed with joy. What else can we do but offer Jesus the best we have: our very lives?

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