



"Invited Home"

*Christmas Eve
7:30 pm Family Worship*



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org
The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

Welcome!

We are so glad to have you share in worship at Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the pastors – they would love to greet you personally! At this time, we ask all worshipers to wear masks in worship.

Today's 7:30 pm service will be recorded and live-streamed. Our camera operators take care to focus on worship leaders and don't regularly film worshipers. In the movement of the service, glimpses of people may occur. Please speak with a pastor if you have concerns.

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.

Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship. We have designated space within the sanctuary (underneath the window of Jesus, the Good Shepherd) that is reserved for families who may need additional space for strollers or carriers for children who cannot yet wear masks. If there is a way we can make worship a more hospitable environment for your family, please speak to a pastor or leave a comment through our website (see above).

Hearing assistance: Our sound system is equipped with personal hearing loop devices. Please ask an usher for a loop device.

Holy Communion: All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with one of our pastors.) Please see additional notes about the Sacrament in the service portion of the bulletin.

Our Perrin Street entrance is accessible. Please ask an usher or greeter for help if you need assistance operating the lift.

Please silence your cell phones: As a courtesy to others, we ask that you please silence your cell phones during worship.

Friday, December 24, 2021 ~ 7:30 Family Worship
“Invited Home”

Prelude:

“A Tiny Child Will Come”

words: Nancy Price
music: Don Besig
arr. Rich Towsley

The Folk Group (Rich Towsley, director)

“Mary, Did You Know?”

words: Mark Lowry
music: Buddy Greene

Paige O’Malley, soprano

Phyllis Stock, piano

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

Nancy Price, mezzo-soprano

words & music: Robert MacGimsey
Chrisanne Gates, piano

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst
arr. Jason W. Krug

In dulci jubilo

Jane Morale, violin

14th-century German carol
arr. Jason W. Krug

Phyllis Stock, piano

“O Holy Night”

French poem: Placide Cappeau
trans. John Sullivan Dwight
music: Adolphe

Adam

Paul O’Malley, tenor

Raelynn Clare, piano

Noël No.10: “Noël grand-jeu et duo”
(from Livre de noëls, Op. 2)

Louis-Claude Daquin

Raelynn Clare, organ

There is no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn. They are displaced from their home, journeying to fulfill their civic requirements to be counted in the census. And yet, the time comes to give birth where they are, and so a humble home is found. A place is made, among the feeding trough, in a cramped room abounding with chaos. In many ways, Jesus is born without an invitation, and yet, he devotes his life to inviting people who are cast out. In the same way, we might imagine the story of Christmas as God's invitation to be welcomed home despite all barriers. How will we respond?

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Worship:

An unmarried teenage girl was invited—
to carry Christ into this world.

An ordinary carpenter was invited—
to be a father to a child unlike any other.

The shepherds were invited—
outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

The Magi were invited—
foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—
then we can trust that we too are invited.

This story is for us.

This love is for us.

Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O, come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Prayer of the Day:

Gracious God,

Your story is one that forever invites us

to be our full selves,

to take up space,

to go where we feel called,

and to allow this community to feel like home.

So use these gifts to keep building your home here. With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray.

Amen.

Children's Sermon

Special Music: Wexford Carol

Irish traditional
arr. Richard Walters

Katherine Jefferis, mezzo-soprano

Jim Jefferis, piano

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High (ST 1 & 3)*

ELW #289

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain

The Gospel:

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Christmas Message

Offering of Music: What Child

words: William Chatterton Dix

music: Paul W. Lohman

The Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, director)

WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL:

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Good and loving God,

Gracious God,

Your story is one that forever invites us

to be our full selves,

to take up space,

to go where we feel called,

and to allow this community to feel like home.

So use these gifts to keep building your home here.

With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution:

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.

With this bread and wine

Draw us together into a community of hope, peace, joy and love.

Be among us in this meal.

And form us to be your home in the world today.

The Lord's Prayer:

One in body, one in 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 comes to you.

Thanks be to God.

Distribution of Communion:

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please keep your mask on until you receive the host. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the pastor or communion assistant.

The Communion:

Communion Hymn:	<i>I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve</i>	ELW #271
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I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.

He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today;
And still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;
He opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king.

And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too;
And that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.

Communion Hymn:

What Child Is This

ELW #296

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Communion Hymn:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW #279

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Table Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer:

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to make a home for 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.

Distribution of the Light:

The pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle and then move down the aisle lighting the candles of the congregation in this manner: the worshiper nearest the center aisle will receive the light and in turn give the light to the one by their side. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when passing the light to another so that the hot wax will not be spilled.

A Christmas Carol:	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	ELW #281
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Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

(Hum fourth verse)

The Prayer:

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Benediction:

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

(Candles may be extinguished, using the foil snuffers provided. Do not remove your mask to extinguish your candle. Please return your candles and foil snuffers to an usher as you leave the sanctuary.)

Sending Hymn:

Joy to the World

ELW #267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal:

Christ is born! Go in joy and peace!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach

(In sweet rejoicing)

assisted by The Chancel Bells

Merry Christmas!

We are so glad you have shared in worship with us this Christmas Eve.
We wish you and yours a blessed Christmas!

Worship: Our worship time each week is on Sunday at 8:55 am (both in-person and livestream). Visit our website – blcfairport.org/shareinworship – for information on how to participate in the livestream. If you are joining us in-person, we ask people to wear masks while moving through our facility, in worship, and during Sunday morning faith formation activities. Look at the Gathering Again page on our website, for the latest updates.

To receive the full announcements and additional content about upcoming events and activities, please read the Weekly Star (available in hard copy on Sundays and/or by email each week): To subscribe, go to www.blcfairport.org and scroll down to sign up for reminders and special announcements.



***Christmas Poinsettia Donations
and/or contributions to
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
were made to the glory of God by the following:***

Suzanne & TJ Antanoff in honor of Jan & Howard Sharp
and in memory of Grace & Gene Garvey, and June Sharp

Ed & Joan Bangel

Donald & Susan Cardinal in memory of grandparents

Sherry & Jim Cook in honor of our grandchildren, Allison, Braeden, and Caitlin
Paoni and in memory of our parents, Howard & Myrtle Cook
and Rod & Jane Johnson

Nancy Fehse in memory of Anna Steuerwald

Sandy Goehle

Ruth & Jeff Hedin in memory of E. Edward Hahne

Pam Heiple in memory of Mike and Bob

Jim & Allyson Jefferis

Dick & Linda Keefer in honor of loved ones

Kim Kulik in honor of Don Raw Jr,
and in memory of Terri Lynn (Raw) Beach-Holder

Lil Lassen-Ward

Bob & Judy Lohr in memory of Allen & Dorothy Lohr
and Edward & Loretta Baldasari

LYLAS partner in honor of Kathy Moragne

Rolf Maxa in memory of John Feger

Kathy Moragne in memory of George & Bernice Stevens

Frank & Gabriele Nardozi in memory of Erna & Gerhard Schlueter,
Frank Nardozi, and Irene Cortini

Joan & Wayne Osgood in honor of Mary Osgood
and in memory of Bob Osgood

Howard & Janet Sharp in memory of our parents

*Larry & Ros. Siegel in honor of our grandson, Tavis David Macomber
and in honor of our children David & Leann*

Kay Slattery in memory of Willard Ekegren, father of Kay Slattery

Anita Trabold

Neil Vokes in memory of Ardis Vokes

*Pastor Amy & Hans Walter-Peterson in honor of our godchildren, Madeleine,
Isabel, Nathaniel & Micah, and in memory of Hans' dad, James Peterson*

GerryAnn & Wayne Westcott in honor of our grandchildren

*Maribeth Wilke in memory of Mitch Wilke, Ed & Paula Hitchings,
and Eddie Hitchings*



*Our Christmas tree is given to the glory of God by **Jim and Donna Berner** in
honor of their family.*

*The wreaths which decorate our Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by **Brian
Edwards** in memory of his parents Tom and Gert Edwards, his aunt Ann Rasbeck
and his grandparents Henry and Charlotte Müller.*

*The wreaths that adorn our church entrances are given to the glory of God by
Karen Bigenwald in honor of her family and in memory of her parents Isabelle
and Sam Mohr.*

Calendar for December 26 – January 2

(Last updated on 12/20/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 12/26

1st Sunday of Christmas

8:55 am Worship with
Communion (in-person
and livestream)

No Children's Choir

Monday, 12/27

Tuesday, 12/28

2:00 pm Support Group
for Caregivers

Wednesday, 12/29

No Bible Study
No Chancel Choir
6:15 pm Folk Group
No Chancel Choir

Thursday, 12/30

7:00 pm Quilt Tying

Friday, 12/31

2:30 pm Dulcimer
Rehearsal

Saturday, 1/1

Sunday, 1/2

*2nd Sunday of
Christmas/Epiphany/
Lessons and Carols*

8:55 am Worship with
Communion (in-person
and livestream)

No Children's Choir

Merry Christmas! The Church Office will be closed... December 27 - December 31 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays and for scheduled time away for Beth and Pastor Amy. Pastor Hoffman will provide coverage for pastoral care emergencies this week. Please contact her directly, if needed.

Zoom Meetings at BLC: The easiest way to join is to use the direct link available in the Calendar of Events on our website. If you don't see your meeting in the Calendar of Events or have questions, please contact your group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details!

In-Person Meetings at BLC: Submit details at <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/> for each planned meeting, event and activity at BLC. This allows us to check for availability, reserve the space, and plan accordingly. Please contact the church office to confirm or with any questions following your submission.

Calendar for January 2 – January 9

(Last updated on 12/20/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 1/2

*2nd Sunday of
Christmas/Epiphany/
Lessons and Carols*
8:55 am Worship with
Communion (in-person
and livestream)
No Children's Choir

Monday, 1/3

7:00 pm 100th
Anniversary Planning
Meeting

Tuesday, 1/4

Wednesday, 1/5

8:00 am Men's Breakfast
at The Landmark
Restaurant
9:30 am Bible Study –
Hybrid (In-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
6:00 pm Chancel Bells
6:15 pm Folk Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 1/6

6:30 pm Officers
([Join](#) via Zoom
– ID 814 2532 5342)
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 1/7

Pastor's Sabbath
2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 1/8

9:00 am Holiday
un-decorating
9:15 am Property
Committee

Sunday, 1/9

100th Anniversary Sunday
8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guest
Pastor Lori Nickoloff
(in-person
and livestream) with
reception following
10:15 am Faith
Formation for All
12:30 pm 2nd Sunday
Dinner Ministry
(delivery only)

Pastor Amy remains on scheduled time away and will return to the office on January 5. Please contact Pastor Hoffman directly for pastoral care, if needed.

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M, W, Th & F from 9 am to 12 noon. Our co-Pastor's schedules vary from week to week. Both are available for scheduled appointments.

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Invitations

I've been thinking about a universal truth—the way we all want to be invited in. We want the door to be opened with cheers of, "You're here!" We want the clerk at the store to ask how we're doing, and the waiter to wink at us and whisper, "Good choice." We want the barista to learn our names, which people call being "a regular," but it feels more like being known. We want the stranger to help us pick up our sodas when the case breaks, and the woman to put her bag in her lap on the subway, which is to mean, "Come, you can sit by me." We cherish every open palm wave from the child in the grocery store and every city church with open doors when the organist plays.

At the end of the day we are all just a collection of heart and bones walking through this world, exchanging invitations, saying to one another in a million little ways— come matter here. Come make a difference here. Come be you, here.

Jesus didn't receive much of an invitation.

No one moved their bag to their lap, or opened the door to the inn and said, "You're here!" Still, he came.

What a gift it is
to have a God
who does not wait on my invitation. What a gift it is
to have a God
who can't imagine
being anywhere but here.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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