



Sunday, December 26, 2021

*First Sunday of Christmas
"Chosen Home"*



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 today. 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 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.

Today's Worship Team

We all contribute to worship: lifting our voice in prayer and song, bowing our heads in prayer, opening our ears to hear the Word, and extending our hands to receive the Sacrament. Are you willing to serve in one of these additional roles to contribute to worship this week? Put your name on the sign-up in the narthex and grab the corresponding bulletin so we know the role is filled by you!

Acolyte: *Lights the altar candles during the prelude and extinguishes altar candles during the final hymn, bringing the light of Christ out into the world! May robe and sit on the chancel or sit within the congregation during worship. All ages who can safely handle fire and reach the candles are welcome to serve!*

Glass Washer: *Washes communion glasses either immediately following worship or after Faith Formation for All. Instructions are posted in the sacristy. Many hands make light work so grab a friend to help! (This is also a great opportunity for a household to serve together!)*

Offering: *Sit in the congregation and bring the offering trays from the entrance of the sanctuary forward to the altar during the offertory, giving our congregation's gifts to the glory of God! Pair up with a child if you'd like, so they can have a hands-on role in worship!*

Communion Assistants (2): *Sit in the congregation and come forward at the time of communion (when the congregation begins to sing "Lamb of God") to serve the wine/grape juice for communion. Must be able to hold a tray steady and speak the words, "Blood of Christ shed for you!"*

Thank you also to those serving as Assisting Minister, leading the Children's Sermon, providing Special Music, and serving on Altar Guild, Bread Guild, Wine Guild, Hospitality Team (Usher, Greeter and Fellowship Hosts) and Livestream Team! For more information about any of these roles or to sign up to serve, please contact Beth in the church office or one of the Pastors.

Thank you for your participation and your overflowing grace and encouragement to one another as we work together to bring worship to life each week!

Sunday, December 26, 2021 ~ *First Sunday of Christmas*
“Chosen Home”

Prelude:

Two Settings of “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

Paul Manz

Chrisanne Gates, organ

Home is not necessarily a place, but where we find authentic belonging. In this story, we find Jesus pursuing his theological education, increasing in his wisdom even as a young man. After the Passover festival, he strays from his birth family to dwell in the Temple, listening to the Rabbis and asking questions. Jesus claims and takes up space, choosing to dwell where God has chosen him to be. Similarly, we all need homes of our choosing— people and places that welcome us just as we are.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Worship:

Jesus said,

“This is my Father’s house.”

So come into this space

just as you are.

Come into this space

speaking your truth.

Come into this space

with your authentic self.

This is God’s home.

This is our home.

Let us worship God.

Gathering Hymn:	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	ELW #275
-----------------	--	----------

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.

Let us pray. Author God,

Scripture tells us that when Jesus taught in the temple, all who heard were amazed. Amaze us, too. Help us to hear your word with new ears. Unravel and transform us by the truth tucked between those sentences. Transport us to those early days in the temple. Open our ears so we can hear your word like never before. Open our hearts to respond. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn:

Peace Came to Earth

ELW #285

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

ELW #282

The gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

The Prayers of the People:

Holy God, we come to you today full to the brim. We are carrying gratitude and hope, dreams and fear, scars and love, and in this moment of prayer, we give it all to you.

So as we remember Jesus in the temple, who felt at home there, we give you thanks for the places in our lives that have felt like home for us.

(Speak silently or aloud where those places have been for you: the house you grew up in? summer camp? Your grandparents' house? a church? A friend's home?)

For all of these homes, we give you thanks. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As we remember Jesus in the temple, who took up space to be himself, we give you thanks for the places in our lives where we have been able to follow his lead. Thank you for jobs that bring joy, and for hobbies that keep passions awake. Thank you for the people who have encouraged our gifts, and for those who have spoken our call out loud. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We have so much to be thankful for.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- The birth of Walker (Walker is the son of Cory and Josh and the grandson of Beth and Rick)

Yet we also know that there is still need here. So as we lift our gratitude to you for places that feel like home and for calls that change our lives, we also remember those who feel homeless.

Draw near to your children who have been forced to choose a new home because they were not welcome in their own. Surround their grief and their pain with your love, and give us the eyes to see and arms to welcome them in here. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Draw near to those who are in a wilderness time in their own lives, especially those who are hurting or in pain. Today, we especially pray for:

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

- Iona who died on 12/11

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Bill (brother of Bob) who is hospitalized
- Jim (brother of Phyllis) scheduled for cancer surgery on 12/22
- Robin recovering from a recent surgical procedure
- 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

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God there is so much good here, and there is so much we have yet to learn. Thank you for giving us companions for the journey. Today, we pray especially for these BLC families: John & Kristine (Lauren), Nate, Caroline & Jim (Andrew), Sara & Todd (Abigail & Emerson), Jim & Ricki, and Jim & Mary.

Help us all to be people that create chosen homes. Help us to be people that welcome others into those safe spaces. Help us to be people who follow our calls boldly and bravely, holding open the door for others to follow suit. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We come to you today full to the brim, O God, with prayers that are close to home. Hold them closely. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, we pray.

Amen

WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL:

The Peace:

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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

Offering

Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. We celebrate the opportunity to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources.



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. Those worshipping in person may leave their offerings in the basket in the narthex.

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

Offering of Music:

“The Little Road to Bethlehem”

words: Margaret Rose

music: Michael Head

Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, soloist

Offertory: What Child Is This (ELW 296, STs 1 & 3)

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!

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!

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God who welcomes us home,
who creates space, who leaves a chair with our name on it—we have two coats and we are giving one away. That's what this offering is. It's our second coat. It's our hearts on our sleeves. It's our audacious hope that there can indeed be a better world than this one. So take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised day. Gratefully we pray, amen.

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 love, joy, hope and peace.
Be among us in this meal.
And form us to be your home in the world.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray 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:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
And let these gifts to us be blessed!

Distribution of Communion:

Please come forward at the direction of the worship leaders. 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 contact one of the Pastors.) Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the pastor or communion assistant. You may lower your mask as you receive communion. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.

The Communion:



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymns sung during communion:

<i>Away in a Manger</i>	ELW #278
<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ELW #279

Table Blessing:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen

Post-Communion Prayer:

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Benediction:

If our life together were a house:

May God's love be the foundation, Jesus – the cornerstone, the Holy Spirit – the windows, ushering light in, and hope be the walls that hold us together. May the blessing of God: Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit be yours, now and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW #288

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Christ is born!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

arr. Wilbur Held

Chrisanne Gates, organ

Thank you to Chrisanne Gates *for leading our worship music and serving as guest organist while Raelynn is away!*

Thank you *to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! If you would like to learn more about participating in a worship role, please speak to one of the co-pastors or contact the church office!*

Portions of the liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org
Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.
From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2021 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.

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 Bells

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.

Today's reflection comes from this year's Close to Home Advent Devotional.

"Chosen Home" by Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri

We usually think of Jesus as an adult—healing, preaching, and teaching, going from town to town as the Spirit leads him. The scripture in Luke 2 gives us a rare opportunity to see a twelve-year-old Jesus at an important juncture in life, a story with much to teach us about the spaces we create and embody for others to belong and dwell.

After the festival of the Passover, Jesus stayed behind at the temple and sat "among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions" (v. 46). Jesus felt at home among them, so much so that he paid no attention to going home or even informing his parents of his whereabouts. When Mary and Joseph finally found him, they questioned and reprimanded him for causing them to worry. Somewhat surprised, probably feeling he was exactly where he was supposed to be, Jesus says, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (v. 49).

I can imagine a young Jesus annoyed at being found, soon to be taken away from a place he had claimed as his own, his Father's house. For all the worry a lost Jesus caused his parents, those precious moments at the temple with other generations of teachers were time well spent.

I wonder if, as the Church, we are cognizant of the impact we have on young lives during their formative years? Are we providing space for authentic relationships to develop, intergenerational or otherwise?

As we focus today on a young Jesus, the parents, the teachers, the experiences, and the community that contributed to his growth in wisdom, in years, and in favor, may we as kin-dom builders strive to create and embody spaces for our young ones to feel that the faith community is exactly where they belong. As we do this, may we also strive to create a community where everyone—regardless of their age, language, culture, orientation, race, gender identity, and background—knows they belong, a place of welcome and a chosen home.