

Sunday, January 2, 2022 "Home By Another Way" Epíphany Sunday ~ Lessons and Carols



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ <u>www.blcfairport.org</u> 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 - <a href="https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/">https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/</a> - 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!

# Epiphany Sunday ~ January 2, 2022 "Home By Another Way" Service of Lessons & Carols

Prelude: Of the Father's Love Begotten DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

arr. Wilbur Held ES IST EIN ROS

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Johannes Brahms

Chrisanne Gates, organ

The story of Epiphany marks an end and the beginning. Leaving their home, the Wise Men embark upon a pilgrimage, seeking the glimpse of the divine in the Christ child. Being warned in a dream, the Magi choose a different direction to journey back home. This leads them away from Herod's deception, manipulation, and harm. The Magi make a subversive choice to disobey Herod. They listen to God speaking to them through their dreams. As our own journeys continue, we remember we must sometimes make bold choices to choose a different way.

Call to Worship:

We come to this place—

each of us on our own path.

The path is winding,

and the path is not always clear,

and the path changes,

but we are here.

God is walking us home.

What a gift it is to not walk alone.

Let us worship Holy God.

Carol: Angels We Have Heard On High

ELW #289

Prayer of the Day:

The Lord be with you.

# And also with you.

Holy God, you speak to us in Scripture and in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets, in friends and in strangers, in dreams and in songs. You are speaking all the time, and how often do we miss it? Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth that we have not heard before. Still our hearts so that we can receive with open arms what it is you are offering us today. We know you are speaking, so we are listening. Through Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen

# Reading: John 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Hymn:

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW #295

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness —

on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You 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.

<sup>4</sup>For 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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For 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.

<sup>7</sup>His 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.

ELW #272

# Reading: Isaiah 11:1-6

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth. and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Carol: Holy Child within the Manger WOV #638

# Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

Carol:

# Once in Royal David's City

ELW #269

# Reading: Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Special Music: Some Children See H	im Wihla Hutson and Alfred S. Burt
Nancy Price, mezzo-sopran	o Chrisanne Gates, piano

# Reading: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

Carol: Love Has Come ELW #292	2
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# Reading: Luke 2:8-20

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

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

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ELW #276

# Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, '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.' <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "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."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.' <sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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.

Carol:	In the Bleak Midwinter	ELW #294
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Confession and Forgiveness:

I imagine that, for the Magi, walking to Bethlehem was not easy. I imagine that following a star for navigation was *definitely* not easy. However, I imagine that the hardest part might have been not knowing where the road would lead.

Friends, we are not always the best versions of ourselves when we are faced with uncertainty or changing plans. Facing the unknown pulls on every ounce of our anxiety and fear. It rings all our stress alarms and can erode our patience, our calm, our sense of perspective.

Fortunately for us, we worship a God who is gracious beyond imagination and meets us on every twist and turn of the road home. So let us pray together now, knowing that even in our worst moments, we are held by God.

God of changed plans,

The Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way. We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter.

Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy. Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation.

Guide our steps to unfamiliar places. Gratefully we pray, amen.

No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life, God walks with us. God never leaves our side. When the road changes and we find ourselves on a new path home, God is always there. So hear and believe this good news: you are + forgiven.

No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved, and held by God. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

The Prayers of the People:

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(a brief silence)

God of The Way, we all have roads we travel. We travel emotional roads—the narratives we tell ourselves, the mental places we revisit again and again, the assumptions and the fears we know by heart. Then there are physical roads—the places in our lives that we walk every day, grocery stores and coffee stands, subways and carpool lines. And then there are roads of our society—the paths carved out that we are expected to follow, dress and etiquette, education and rules, so many things unspoken, but built in stone all the same. So today we remember the Magi—who traveled, who knows how long, down a dusty road to get to you. Holy God, like the Magi, form us to be people that travel mental, physical, and cultural roads to get to you. Hear us, O God,

# Your mercy is great.

In addition to the road the Magi traveled to get to you, we also remember the road they took home— a road home by another way. So, God, when the world cries out for violence and vengeance, show us that road—show us home by another way. And when the world cries out in scarcity and fear, show us that road—show us home by another way. And when we find ourselves on a path that could hurt us, show us that road—show us home by another way. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.** 

God, we are walking. This life is a journey. We give you thanks for those who share the journey with us, especially these BLC families: John & Pat, Joe & Kathy, Beth & Kevin (Autumn & Ilana), Carol, and Dale & Ginny

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)

We remember before you those with whom we share the journey who are hurting or in any need, especially...

- Bill (brother of Bob) who is hospitalized
- Jim (brother of Phyllis) scheduled for cancer surgery on 12/22
- 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.

God of enduring presence, be in our steps, that we might be led to you. Be in our eyes, that we might see you. Be in our hearts, that we might be brave enough to go home by another way. 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:

A Hallelujah Christmas

music: Leonard Cohen new words: Colverton

The Folk Group (Rich Towsley, director)

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 of new beginnings,

We offer these gifts to you today because we love you. The world will tell us to keep our money to ourselves, to hold it tight, to tuck it away, but just as the Magi made a different choice, we make a different choice. Instead, we give what we have, trusting that when we live like we belong to one another, we will see a better world. So take these gifts and use them for your good. With hope, we pray. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

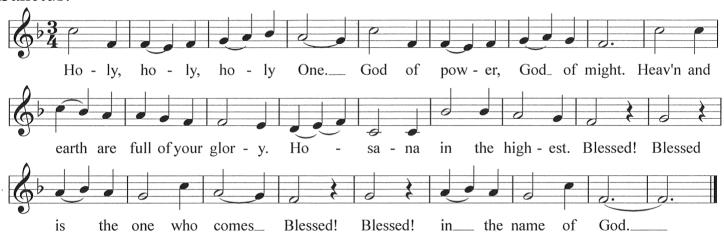
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . .we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### Sanctus:



Words: David Eck, adopted from liturgy. Copyright ©2011

Tune: UN FLAMBEAU

#### 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. Be among us in this meal.

And form us to be your home in the world.

# The Lord's Prayer:

Close to home as one in Christ, 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: Come feast at Emmanuel's table! **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. (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.

#### The Communion:



# Hymns sung during communion: The First Noel Let Our Gladness Have No End ELW #300 ELW #291

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 love be the walls that hold us together. May the blessing of God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit be yours, now and always.

Amen.

Carol:	Joy to the World	ELW #267
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Dismissal:

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Joy to the World

arr. Wilbur Held

*ANTIOCH* 

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 copastors or contact the church office!

# 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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup>
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-decorating9:15 am Property Committee

### Sunday, 1/9

100<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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 <a href="https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/">https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/</a> 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.

# Commentary on Matthew 2:1-12 by Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri

"This is the way."

For those of us who are *Star Wars* fans, the premiere of *The Mandalorian* was a long-awaited event. Little did we know (spoiler alert!) that the first season would be less about the Mandalorian bounty hunter and more about a child—originally his bounty—and the parental relationship that developed between them. The child, a being of great Jedi-like abilities, is threatened by those who wished to exploit their powers. Together they face challenges and dangers that bring them closer throughout the season. Choosing the child's safety and well- being over his own, the Mandalorian knows the decisions made on behalf of the child (ignoring the bounty- hunter job and taking the child to safety) will cost him greatly. It is the right thing to do. "This is the way."

This last week of reflections, we encounter the Magi, astrologers whose hearts were moved by the sighting of a magnificent star. Following it, they left the safety of their homes and embarked on a journey to pay homage to the king the star announced. After a brief visit to Herod, the Magi found Jesus in Bethlehem at a humble home, not in the palace. They found him in a small village, not in the city center of political and ruling powers. They found Jesus among the poor and vulnerable, not the wealthy and powerful. Though the realities surrounding Jesus didn't conform to social constructs of "royalty," there is no mention that the Magi questioned the legitimacy of Jesus as king. The star had stopped over the place where the child was, and they were overjoyed. The birth of Jesus announced God's kin-dom, and he was worthy of their gifts, their honor, and their loyalty. Having been warned in dreams not to go back to the palace, the Magi defied Herod's order and returned home by another way.

We have traveled together and now the star has stopped. As our life journeys continue, looking at the example of the Magi and at the stories of the past weeks, consider what will be your way, the next step along the journey. Wherever the Spirit is leading, know you are loved, and that God is with you, always close to home.

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