

*O Come, O Dayspring
Sunday, November 27, 2022*



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Sunday, November 27, 2022 ~ O Come, O Dayspring

Prelude

Creator Alme Siderum

(Creator of the Starry Skies)

Philip G. Kreckel

Announcements

For centuries, Christians have sung O Come, O Come Emanuel and lifted up the titles for the Messiah that are named in scripture. Today's readings point to Messiah – Dayspring – who brings light to a weary world.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Come, Lord Jesus.

On this day and in this place, be our guest.

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

And confront our sins, confessing them to God who is merciful and just.

Silence for reflection

God for whom we wait,

We confess that we have grown complacent with the world as it is and lost a vision for how you created it to be. We fail to see you in the face of our neighbor. We look out for ourselves instead of working towards justice for all. Come to us with forgiveness and mercy.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ☩ Christ, and your sins are washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, in your resurrection you appeared as the Morning Star that knows no setting: Dawn upon the darkness of the human heart so that the deathly orders of this world may be overcome and your whole creation renewed; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath will be lit as we sing O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

st. 6

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Messiah, Dayspring, come and bring your light. Jesus everybody's waiting for your dawning. We need you to wake us from sleep and open our eyes to see your presence among us. O Come, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS

All kids ages 3 through elementary are welcome to a special time of hearing the Word, conversation and activity! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in the room across the hall from the side entrance to the sanctuary. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.

READING: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	ELW 815
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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

#1 God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. Morning Star,

#2 God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth, as well as in Ukraine and Iran and other places where conflict reigns. Morning Star,

Hear us, we pray.

#3 God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care. Morning Star,
Hear us, we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus to neighbors far and near. We pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Hans & Robyn (Trysta), Marlene, Dylan, Marja & Ronald, Lisa, and Bob & Wendy. Be with our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe as they receive your presence in new ways. Morning Star,
Hear us, we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus, to all in need of your hope and healing.

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

- Phil E., who died on 11/2
- David, brother of Celia T., who died on 11/17

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Gary T., brother of Rich T., who is recovering from surgery on 11/17
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

We also remember those we lift before you, silently and aloud...

Silence for individual prayer.

Morning Star,
Hear us, we pray.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor.

If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

OFFERING

Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting

blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry.

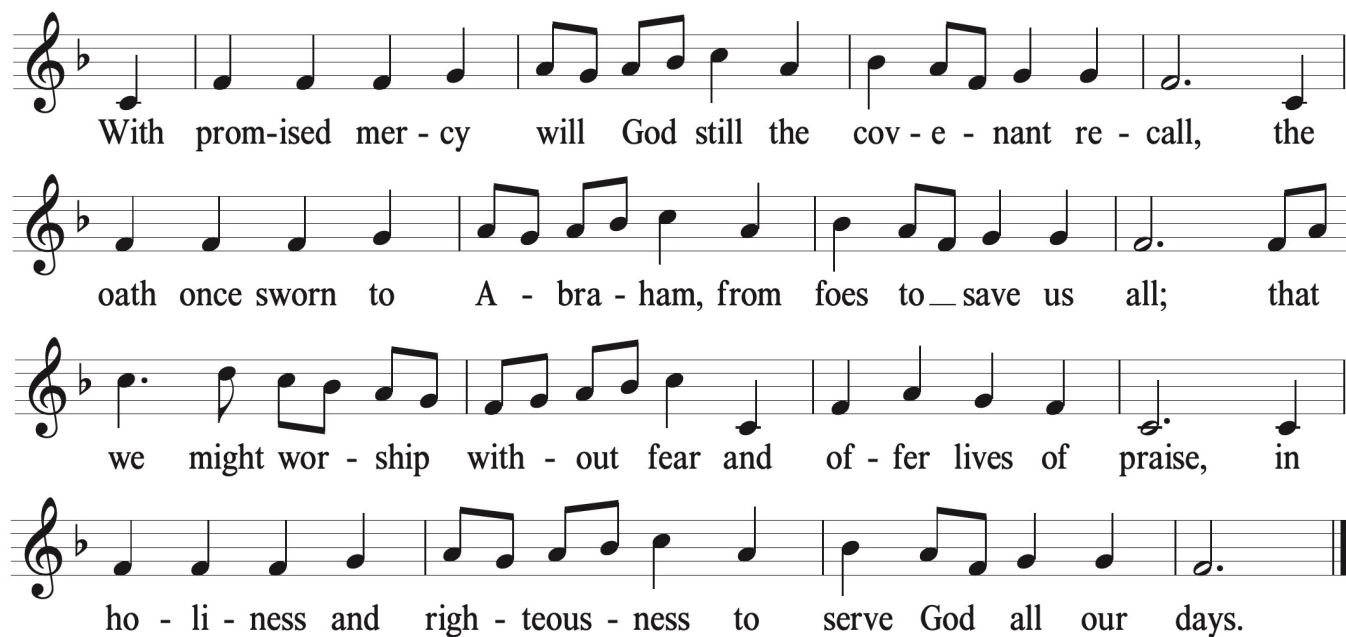
OFFERING OF MUSIC

The Call

words, George Herbert
music, Z. Randall Stroope

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all; that
we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in
ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We pray. Holy One,

we wait in hope. And we give with hope. Hope for your coming reign; hope because you are present with us even now. Receive these generous offerings, and use them for your work of healing and hope in the world. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Spirit and the church cry out:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

All those who await his appearance pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The whole creation pleads:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lord Jesus,

open our hearts to believe that you come in this meal of grace. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in Spirit, we pray:

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

Be strong, do not fear. Here is your God who has come to save you.

Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.

THE COMMUNION

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 241

ELW 254

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise! You

looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace. Now

ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim great

won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Christ Be Our Light	ELW 715 sts. 1, 2, 3, 5
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assisted by The Folk Group

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Wait for the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G Major

Théodore Dubois

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Dr. Jim Jefferis, Director of The Chancel Choir

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Fill out the survey on the table in the narthex and place it in the basket or speak with a pastor.

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.

What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at www.blcfairport.org. Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at office@blcfairport.org or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Thank you for your patience during this transition without office support staff. Our co-Pastors are available Sunday-Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585)223-0634 or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org

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Prayer of the Day is from *What Are We Waiting For* by William H. Petersen

Offertory Prayer – by Rev. Joanna Harader from SpaciousFaith.com

Turn On. Tune In. Wake Up!

In the 1960's people were urged to turn on, tune in, and drop out—to leave the material world behind in favor of an alternate reality. In today's gospel, Jesus also urges us to tune into an alternative to the material world, one he called the coming of the Son of Man. In Jesus' person, the dominion of God comes into the world, and the risen Christ continues to give us abundant signs of its presence. Jesus commands his followers not to drop out of the world, but to be on the lookout for him in it.

Christians await the second coming of Christ, the *parousia*, when we believe we will experience God's reign in its fullness. In the meantime, we live, in the words of some theologians, "already, but not yet." We look for glimpses of the dominion in the here and now. The season of Advent, and today's readings, are designed to help turn us on to the excitement and anticipation of God's reign in our lives and tune in to the infinite opportunities we have to participate in it. In other words, they want to wake us up!

St. Paul exhorts us in today's second reading to lead lives of faithful obedience until the final day. He also challenges us to participate in God's dominion in the here and now, calling us to wake from sleep, to "put on Christ." Eyes wide open and wrapped in Christ, we are called to a new day. Isaiah describes his own vision: gathered by God, learning and teaching God's ways, walking in God's paths, beating swords into ploughshares and spears to pruning hooks. Wide-awake, active, and ready for encounters with Jesus, we may find God's dominion when and where we least expect it.