

Lessons and Carols
Name of Jesus - Savior, Christ, Lord
Sunday, January 1, 2023



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The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

Sunday, January 1, 2023 ~ Lessons and Carols:
Name of Jesus - Savior, Christ, Lord

Prelude:

Noel: Where Go the Happy Shepherds?

Claude Balbastre

Announcements

In the church, January 1 is designated Name of Jesus. It marks the eighth day after we celebrate the birth of Christ. In Jewish law that every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. Today's service takes its theme from the Gospel of Luke (2:10-11), focusing on the ways God comes to us in Jesus as Savior (first set of lessons), Christ (second set of lessons), and Lord (third set of lessons).

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” In ☩ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Amen.

GATHERING CAROL	Angels, from the Realms of Glory	ELW 275
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE	Love Has Come	ELW 292
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

“For unto you is born a *Savior*, who is Christ, the Lord”

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD,

call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;

proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 1:18-21

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL	That Boy-Child of Mary	ELW 293
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“For unto you is born a Savior, who is *Christ*, the Lord”

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: John 1:19-23, 29-34

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us.

What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL	Creator of the Stars of Night	ELW 245
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"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the *Lord*"

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 6:1-8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Luke 1:26-35

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	ELW 276
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NICENE CREED

We confess our faith:

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Guide your church to confess that Jesus is Lord. Fill us with wonder at the good and saving news of Jesus. May we treasure your words and meditate upon them, that we reveal your glory to the world with humility and hope. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Bless the nations with your grace and peace. Inspire and uphold treaties, cease-fires, and international agreements that seek to calm strife between nations. Shield all those who work to protect vulnerable populations from exploitation or danger. Gracious Lord, we pray for PEACE. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

As we have passed from the ADVENT, Lord, now that you are here, help us to reinvent our spiritual mind and body to act upon your wishes, to Love one another, to Love you. Hear us, O God. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Come, Lord Jesus to neighbors far and near. We pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Erwin & Nancy Colleen & Fred, Connie & Tom, Mary, and Jackie. Be with our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe as they receive the gift of your presence. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We cry, “Abba! Father!” as we seek your loving care in times of need. Heal those wounded by hurtful words. Console all who are weighed down by depression and anxiety. Call by name any who feel unloved, misunderstood, or rejected. Heal the sick.

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

- Jeanine K., sister of Susie D., who died on 12/19
- Mike M., brother of Dave M., who died on 12/15
- John N., cousin of Toni T., who died on 12/17

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- 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.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

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

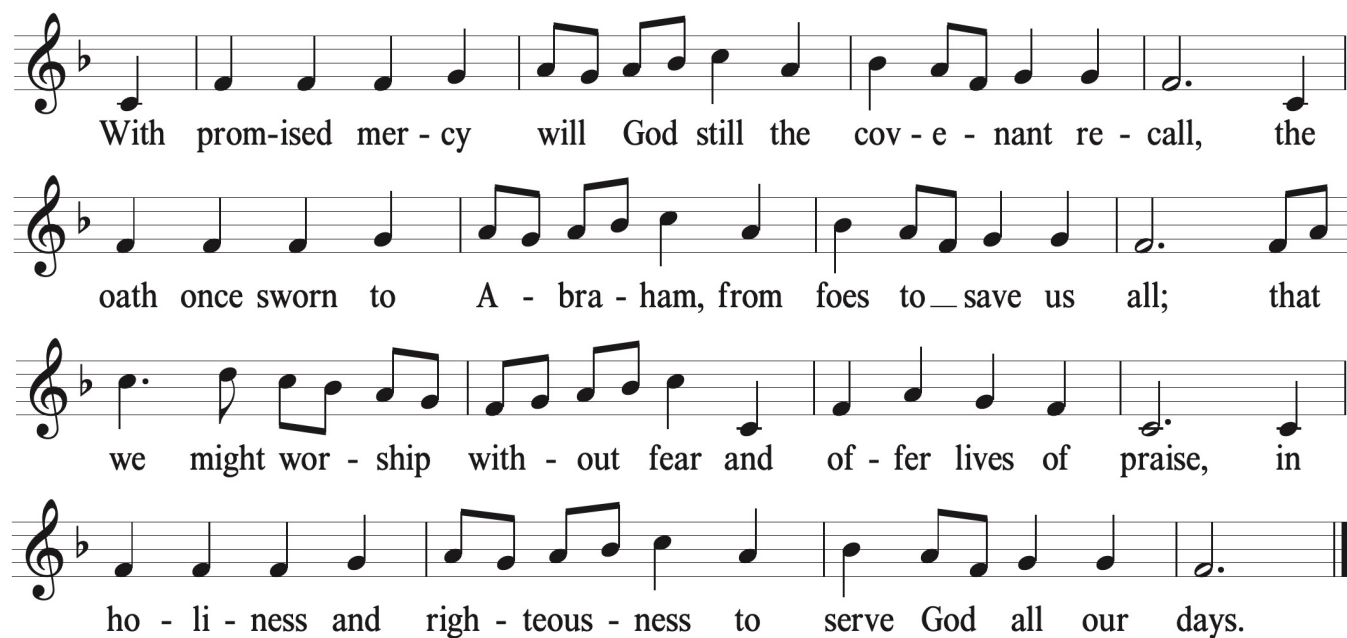
blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry.

OFFERING OF MUSIC

A Time for Hope, A Time for Joy

Nancy Price and Don Besig

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. God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

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

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

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Savior, Precious Savior

ELW 820

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LEAVING 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, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Let Our Gladness Have No End	ELW 291
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Cold December Flies Away

Donald Busarow

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 Chris Gates for serving as our worship musician for today's worship.

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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Traces of Light

“The light shines in the darkness.” We know the darkness—even in the merriment of Christmas we need not travel too far to see it. When the prophet Isaiah proclaimed words echoed in our reading, he did not need to go into too much detail as to what the darkness was. This was the darkness of the battlefield, of war and captivity. Our daily headlines remind us of today’s darkness, which Henri Nouwen says “is so visible and tangible . . . that it is often difficult to believe that there is much to think, speak, or write about other than our brokenness” (*Life of the Beloved*, New York: Crossroad, 1992, p. 69).

But it is into this brokenness that the life and light of the world descends, not to terrify or shame it, but to create it anew. From the beginning this Word was active in creation, speaking obliquely to every culture and era, until the particular time of incarnation. God risks vulnerability in order to reach out to the wounded, and places in creation’s trust the caretaking of a fragile grace. Will the world receive him?

The rest of the story will painfully answer this question. Events at Gethsemane, Gabbatha, and Golgotha will dramatically declare our rejection of the life and light of the world. But the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. We wrestle with the paradox that the world did not recognize its own light by which it sees, or its own life from which it has life, or the Word that gives it meaning. Yet we also treasure the wonder by which we have been granted eyes to see and ears to hear. At Christmas we perceive the light in infancy, but, grace upon grace, he is a trace of joy given for us.