

“Inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Barre Congregational Church seeks to be a welcoming and caring congregation that supports each other and serves the wider world.”

The Barre Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



The Church of the Nativity
Bethlehem, West Bank, Palestine

Sunday, August 16th, 2026
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell
Pastor

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Pastor: On the dusty and rocky roads

People: Let us journey with Jesus!

Pastor: With Mary and Joseph traversing the way

People: Let us journey with Jesus!

Pastor: Awaiting his arrival in Bethlehem

People: Let us journey with Jesus!

* Opening Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#144

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

God of grace and truth, you give the gift of yourself, but we are often caught up in our own gifts given and received. You offer us new life in the baby born in Bethlehem, but we cloak that birth in sentiment and ignore the cost of new life. You shine in the world, but we dwell on the darkness; You came to us in flesh and blood, but we often fail to see you in the human lives around us. Forgive what we have been, shape who we are, and direct who we shall be. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Reading from the Old Testament

Genesis 36: 16 - 20

Micah 5: 1 - 4

Reading from the Gospels

Luke 2: 1 - 7

Responding to the Word (*Responsive*)

One: The word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Jesus In Bethlehem

Expressions of Gratitude, Joys, and Concerns

After each prayer shared, we respond, “O Lord, hear our prayer.”

Pastoral Prayer (*Prayer Response*)

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us for our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn

“A Babe Is Born In Bethlehem”

Insert

Call to the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures high and low.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

A Prayer for Bethlehem

*Closing Hymn

“There's A Song In The Air”

#159

Benediction

**Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

**Please sit quietly for the postlude.



If you'd like to donate to the work of the BCC, please scan the QR Code with the camera application on your cell phone. A link will pop up. Please click it and fill out the donation form.

Announcement:

The Barre Congregational Church member per capita dues are now due for the 2026/27 year. It amounts to 16.72\$ per member.

Volunteers Needed on Sunday Mornings!

We need your help to make Sunday morning worship an inspiring and welcoming experience for members and friends alike. Please consider signing up as a lector (reading Scripture during the service), usher, or greeter. The blue sign up book is available at the table in the back of the sanctuary. You can also sign up by reaching out to deacons Cathy James (lectors), Bev Thomas (greeters), or Rev. James at revjames.bccucc@gmail.com.

Welcome Guests!

We are so glad that you are worshiping with us today! The Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation where no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here! We are blessed by your presence with us. Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right of the sanctuary and downstairs. We heartily invite you to join us for conversation and refreshments in our Fellowship Hall following the service.

We welcome the seekers.

We welcome those who question.

We welcome those who believe without question.

It is not for us to turn anyone away.

Arms wide open.

Welcome home.

Upcoming events and meetings:

Sunday, August 16th: Worship Service with Rev. James, 9:30 am

Tuesday, August 18th: Council Meeting

Saturday, August 22nd: Saturday Morning Breakfast, 8:00 - 9:30 am

Sunday, August 23rd: Worship Service with Rev. James, 9:30 am

Tuesday, August 25th: Deacons Meeting

Please inform the church office of all upcoming events

Serving this Sunday

Don Singer, Lector

Bonita Cortese, Greeter

Linda West, Flowers

Finance, Coffee Hour

Linda West, Welcome

Peter Anthony, Usher

Thank you to our volunteers for their service to the Church.

297 A Babe is Born in Bethlehem.

Et Barn er födt i Bethlehém.

8, 4, 8, 8.
L. M. LINDEMAN, (1812-87.)

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

1. A Babe is born in Beth - le-hem, In Beth - le - hem,
There-fore re-joice, Je - ru - sa - lem. Hal - le - lu-jah, Hal - le - lu - jah!

- 2 He doth within a manger lie,
A manger lie,
Whose throne is set above the sky.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
- 3 Stillness was all the manger round,
The manger round,
The creature its Creator found.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
- 4 The wise men came, led by the star,
Led by the star, [far.
Gold, myrrh, and incense, brought from
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
- 5 His mother is the Virgin mild,
The Virgin mild,
And He the Father's only Child.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
- 6 The serpent's wound He beareth not,
He beareth not,

- Yet takes our blood, and shares our lot.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
- 7 Our human flesh He enters in,
He enters in,
But bears no single taint of sin.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
- 8 To fallen man Himself He bowed,
Himself He bowed,
That He might lift us up to God.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
- 9 On this most blessed jubilee,
Blest jubilee,
All glory be, O God, to Thee.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
- 10 O Holy Three, we Thee adore,
We Thee adore,
This day, henceforth, for evermore.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!