

“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



Nazareth, Galilee region with the Basilica of Annunciation in background
Photo by Daphna Tal for the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, 2009

Sunday, August 30th, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell
Pastor

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Pastor: Jesus of Bethlehem and Nazareth and Calvary,

People: We celebrate your birth. Come and be born in us.

Pastor: Jesus of the manger and the inn, Jesus of the workshop and the temple, Jesus of the lakeside and the city, Jesus of the fireside and the roadside,

People: We celebrate your life. Come and be born in us.

Pastor: Jesus of Mary and Joseph, Jesus of shepherds and angels, Jesus of children and animals, Jesus of fishermen and priests, Jesus of tax collectors and prostitutes, Jesus of all who will receive you,

People: We celebrate your resurrection. Come and be born in us.

* Opening Hymn

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

#90

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Lord Jesus Christ, you met Philip and Nathanael on the road and said “Follow me” - and they did... We confess that we do not expect to meet you on the familiar roads we travel, and so we fail to discern your presence or your call on our lives. Holy Spirit, you empower us to recognise and to respond to the invitation of Jesus to follow him, even when that means travelling on unknown and unfamiliar paths. Merciful God, take from us all that hinders our hearing your voice and fill us anew with the Holy Spirit that we may joyfully respond to Jesus’ call on our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Reading from the Old Testament

Psalm 78: 1 - 4

Readings from the Gospels

Matthew 2: 19 - 23

Mark 6: 1 - 6

John 1: 43 - 46

Responding to the Word (*Responsive*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Jesus In Nazareth

Expressions of Gratitude, Joys, and Concerns

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

Pastoral 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

“O Sing A Song Of 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

*Closing Hymn

“Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee”

#102

Benediction

**Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

**Please sit quietly for the postlude.



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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:

Saturday, September 5th: Saturday Morning Breakfast, 8:00 - 9:30 am

Sunday, September 6th: Worship Service with Rev. James, 9:30 am

Sunday, September 6th: Administration Meeting, 7 pm (*via Zoom*)

Wednesday, September 9th: Property Meeting, 5:00 pm

Wednesday, September 9th: Finance Meeting

Saturday, September 12th: Saturday Morning Breakfast, 8:00 - 9:30 am

Sunday, September 13th: Rebound Sunday;

8:00 AM Handbell Choir

8:45 AM Chancel Choir

9:30 AM Worship Service with Rev. James & Sunday School

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Cookout (*Please RSVP with the church office*)

Please inform the church office of all upcoming events

Serving this Sunday

, Lector

, Greeter

, Flowers

, Coffee Hour

, Welcome

, Usher

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

159 O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

1 O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, of shep-herds watch-ing there,
 2 O sing a song of Naz-a-reth, of sun-ny days of joy;
 3 O sing a song of Gal-i-lee, of lake and woods and hill,
 4 O sing a song of Cal-va-ry, its glo-ry and dis-may,

and of the news that came to them from an-gels in the air.
 O sing of fra-grant flow-ers' breath, and of the sin-less boy.
 of him who walked up-on the sea and bade its waves be still.
 of him who hung up-on the tree, and took our sins a-way.

The light that shone on Beth-le-hem fills all the world to-day.
 For now the flowers of Naz-a-reth in ev-ery heart may grow.
 For though, like waves on Gal-i-lee, dark seas of trou-ble roll,
 For he who died on Cal-va-ry is ris-en from the grave,

Of Je-sus' birth and peace on earth the an-gels sing al-way.
 Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.
 when faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, falls peace up-on the soul.
 and Christ, our Lord, by heaven a-dored, is might-y now to save.

This hymn created by a noted Presbyterian hymnal editor and scholar employs place names and sensory images (light, fragrance, wind) to sketch the events of Christ's life. The tune name commemorates the village in Sussex where the arranger first heard the traditional melody.





Quarrying Limestone in Nazareth



First Century Home in Nazareth, possibly the home of the Holy Family