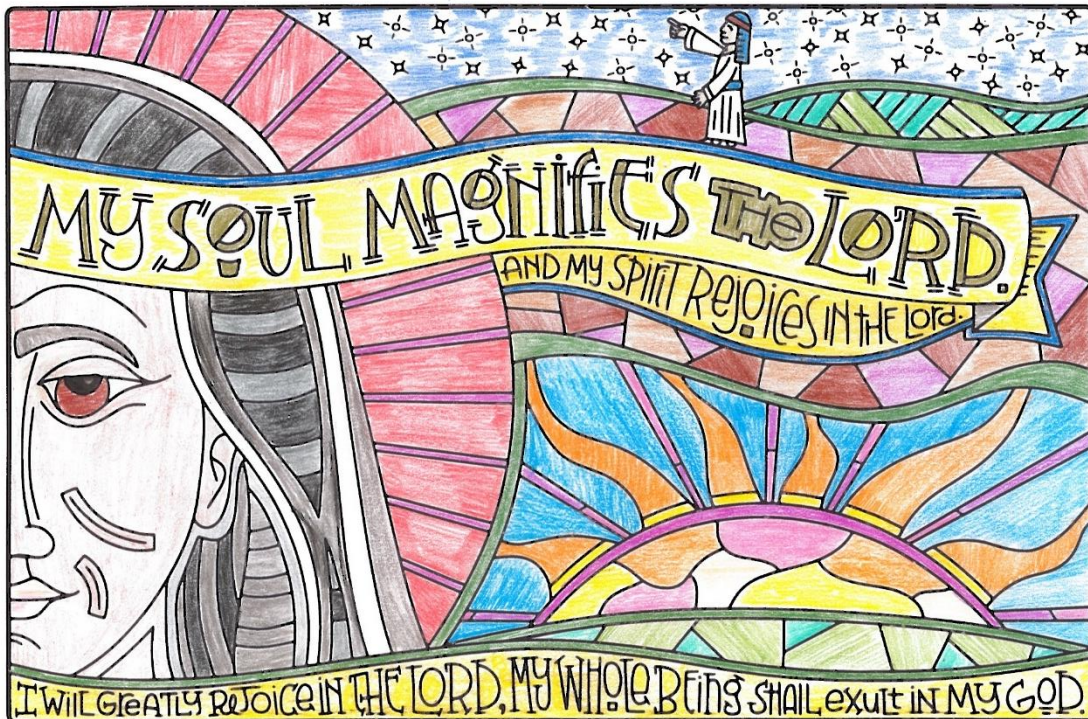


Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

Sunday, December 24, 2017 11:00 pm

Candlelight Carol Service of Holy Communion



By Rebecca Yount

PRELUDE: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* LBW #42 (All Sing)
Angels, From the Realms of Glory LBW #50 (All Sing)
The First Noel LBW #56 (All Sing)
Gloria In Excelsis Chamber Choir
O Holy Night Solo

The assembly is invited to participate as indicated.

The hymnals, which may be used for the Prelude, are located under the kneelers in front of you.

GATHERING/WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN: *O, Come, All Ye Faithful.* All Stand & Sing

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be...glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Assembly is seated.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

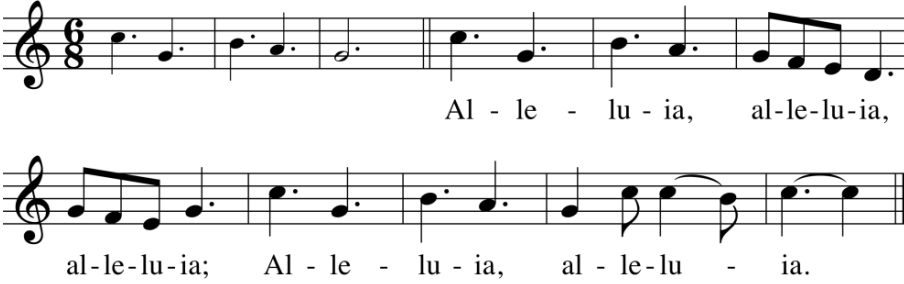
SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

PROCESSIONAL


(Congregation turns to face procession and remains standing for Gospel & Gospel carol)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All Stand & Sing

Refrain



Verse



To Refrain

Text: Susan Briehl, © 2004, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Music: Marty Haugen, © 2004, GIA Publications, Inc.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

(The Reading of the Gospel)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE GOSPEL CAROL: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* All Stand & Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Pastor Micah

CAROL OF THE DAY: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Stand & Sing

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
On, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER *(Please Kneel)*

Each petition ends with "Lord in your mercy."

The congregation responds with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *And the Glory of the Lord* Handel

And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:56

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *What Child is This* All Stand & Sing

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!

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider *All*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Presider *All*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The presiding minister gives God thanks and invites the assembly to join heaven's hymn of Praise: ... " We Praise your name and join their unending hymn" ...

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the One who comes, who
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER Tune: *Away In A Manger*

1. Our Father in heaven,
all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us,
Your will done the same.
By mortals and angels,
come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us
from heaven's high throne.

2. The bread that we yearn for
provide us each day;
As we forgive others,
our sins take away;
In times of temptation,
lead us to be near;
From evil deliver
your children most dear.

3. For Yours is the kingdom;
 o're all things You reign.
 And Yours is the power;
 all things You maintain.
 To You be the glory, resounding again
 From all of creation,
 forever! Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:

Come, Adore the Savior. Handbell Choir

Behold Our Light Has Come Church Choir

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve All Sing



- 1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
- 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
- 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
- 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
- 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
 and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
 he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
 and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959
 Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863
 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

On Christmas Night All Sing



- 1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing to hear the news the
- 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re - deem - er
- 3 When sin de - parts be - fore his face, then life and health come
- 4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels



an - gels bring. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de - parts be - fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark - ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An - gels re - joice with us and
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God in high - est



mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
 sing, all for to see the new - born king,
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good - will. A - men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Remain Standing

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.



CANDLELIGHTING

The pastor will light his candle from the large Christ Candle, which symbolizes Christ, the light of the world. With the assistance of the acolyte and ushers, the light will be passed throughout the congregation. (*Remember: Do not tip over a lighted candle.*)

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL: *Silent Night* **All Sing**
 (Raise your candle at "*Christ, the Savior is born*" and "*Jesus, Lord at your birth.*")

1. Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright
 Round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight;
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!



3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,

*Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*



THE BLESSING

P May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please extinguish your candles)



SENDING CAROL: *Joy to the World* All Sing

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

THE SENDING

P Glory to God in the highest!

C **Peace to God's people on earth!**

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* All Sing

**We Wish You a Merry Christmas,
 We Wish You a Merry Christmas,
 We Wish You a Merry Christmas,
 And a Happy New Year!**

**Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
 Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Repeat Refrain

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ASSISTING MINISTERS:

PASTOR: Micah Kearney

GREETER: Pat Koehler

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr.

FLUTE: Julia Gunter

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

CONDUCTOR: Steve Bingham

PERCUSSION: Elizabeth Bruchon, Diann Halvorson

SOLOISTS: Greg Byrum, Don Robinson

CHOIRS: Holy Comforter Church Choir, Chamber Choir, Handbell Choir

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Greg Cline

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Amanda Kelly Katie Kessen

Rebecca Yount

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

USHERS: Volunteers

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TONIGHT are given by Julia Gunter in celebration of the birth of our Savior and in honor of our Choirmaster and all church musicians for their time, talent and dedication to our music ministry.

***A Special Thank You to Everyone who made this a
Wonderful Advent & Christmas Season!***

Welcome Christmas friends! Jesus is born this day. May He be born again in your hearts this night. We especially welcome guests of Holy Comforter. **Please** fill out a card from the rack in front of you. If you do not have a Church home in the community, please consider joining Holy Comforter on Sundays.

NOTE: All classes and music activities resume January 7th.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: MicahKearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2017

GLORY TO GOD:

Greg Byrum to the glory of God for Cullen McKay
Pastor Micah & Jenn Kearney (2 poinsettias)

IN HONOR OF:

Greg Byrum in honor of Libby Byrum, mother
Greg Cline in honor of Shirley Causby and Faye & Warren Heller
Carmen, Arden & Merritt De Nicholas in honor of Dianne Lail (Grandma)
Charles & Beverley Mauney in honor of our children, grandchildren and Al McCoy
Mark & Anne Reese in honor of Jim & Barbara Reese and Jim Robertson
Luke & Alec Via and Noah Rawlins in honor of Fran Holland

IN MEMORY OF:

Donna Bean in memory of Faye Hamilton Bean
Greg Byrum in memory of Olin Byrum, father
Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Raul E. de la Vega
Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. William L. Kannapel
Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Herbert & Pauline Christenbury
Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Robert & Mary Kelly
Sue Lahr in memory Stan Lahr
Dianne Lail in memory of A. O. Lail, father
Chuck, Ginger & Jake MacDonald in memory of Heather Mauney Yount
and Pamela Mauney
Charles & Beverley Mauney in memory of Heather Mauney Yount
and Betsy & Ray Mauney and Mary McCoy
Debbie Mendez in memory of Alice & Mark Lyerly
Nancy Powell in memory of James & Margaret Sipe, parents
Mark & Anne Reese in memory of Shirley Robertson
Gary & Karen Rogers in memory or Harry & Helen Laver
Harold & Jo Singleton in memory of their parents
Lynne Sudarich in memory of her parents Leonard & Marie Sudarich
Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke & Alec Via in memory of Heather Mauney Yount

This is the list that the church office received. We apologize if there were any names omitted.