## Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 29, 2015

## The First Sunday in Advent

The Baptism of Noah Benjamin Rawlins

Micah Kearney Pastor

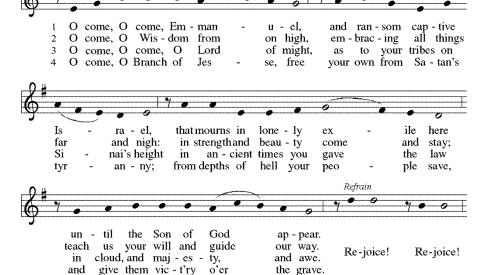


Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

#### **GATHERING/WELCOME**

**PRELUDE:** Watch, O Lord, With All Those Awake This Night . . . . . . . . Church Choir

GATHERING SONG: O Come, Emmanuel . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing





Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 @ 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

P God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world

**Sponsors:** I present Noah Rawlins for baptism.

P Noah, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

## Response:

I do.

P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Noah in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

## Response:

I do.

P People of God, do you promise to support Noah by praying for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

## The assembly stands

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- C I renounce them.

- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

  On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

## The assembly may be seated.

#### **BAPTISM**

- P Noah Benjamin Rawlins, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- C You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.
- P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Noah with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

P Noah Rawlins, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

#### WELCOME

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

## The baptismal group faces the congregation

- A Let us welcome the newly baptized.
- C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

#### **GREETING**

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

C And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the

threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated and are invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

#### CHILDREN'S TIME

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together immediately after the Children's sermon. Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day. Children birth through 3 years-old are invited to join others their age in the nursery.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14–16

A reading from the thirty-third chapter of Jeremiah.

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



**LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH:** *Light One Candle* . . . . . . . . . . . . . All Sing The first candle represents HOPE. Long ago, peoples' hearts were sustained by hope as they waited for a Savior. We hope, too, for the Savior and his love to fill and cover the world.



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### SECOND READING

#### 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

A reading from the third chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

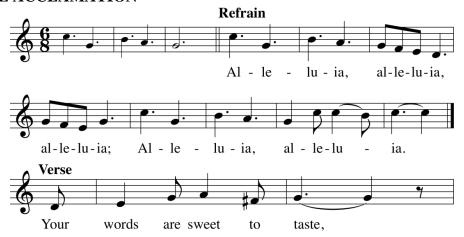
<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





**GOSPEL** Luke 21:25–36

- P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

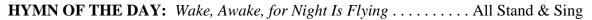
God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.





Cre - scen - dos rise;

your halls

re

what joy

is

ours!



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt. Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

## **PEACE**

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- And also with you. C



#### **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM & RESPONSE:** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence . . . . . .

Congregation joins in singing on verse 3; standing on verse 4



- all mor tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
- King of kings, vet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood. Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way;
- his feet the six winged ser aph, cher u bim with sleep less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing his hand Lord of lords in hu - man the bod - y and the ves - ture, in blood, the Light of light, de - scend-ing from the realms of end - less day, veil their fac - es to the pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de-scend - ing comes full hom-age to de - mand. will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n-ly food. comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark-ness clears a - way. "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le-lu ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt. Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

## A brief silence.

Come to the church, saving God. Grant to your people your redemption. Stand with all Christians who are persecuted for the faith. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Come to the earth, creating God. Protect the lands from environmental disasters. Nurture the animals and plants that you have made. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Come to the nations of the world, sovereign God. Inspire all leaders to work for justice. Bring peace to Jerusalem. We pray for peace in all the places of the world where darkness persists and people live in fear. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Come to all in need, mighty God. Protect those who suffer injustice. Comfort those who live in fear. Heal the sick. Accompany the dying. We pray especially for . . . . Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Reveal yourself to this congregation and to our community, gracious God. Deepen our love for one another. In this season, give us compassion for all who suffer, and keep us from selfish excess. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered. Loving God, you bring to yourself all the faithful who have died. Strengthen us in holiness until with all the saints we come to see you face to face. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

#### 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.

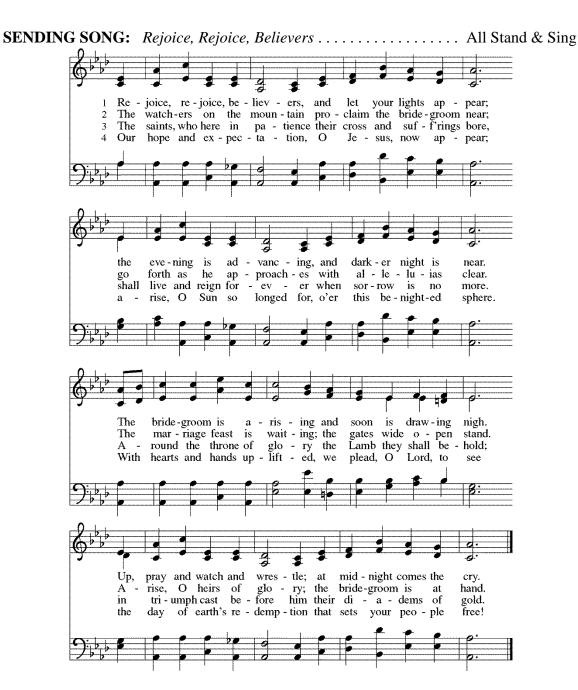
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

P May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, 🕂 Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

#### **DISMISSAL**

- A Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this First Sunday in Advent. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

<u>CHILDREN</u> are welcome in worship. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. Nurseries for children (**infants through 3 years old**) are located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding them.



**KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER:** Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. If you wish a name to be added to our prayer list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in a form online at www.holyc.org.

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Jean Ferguson in honor of the Holy Comforter Choir and in honor of Greg Cline.

<u>Those who have placed flowers on the altar</u> may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. *Greg Byrum, Worship & Music* 

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, November 22, 2015:

Attendance: 125

**Budget Report** 

Current Offering Received 11/22/2015

Weekly Budgeted Expenses

Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)

Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD

Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

**GREETER:** Kathy Graves **LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr.

**ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER:** Need Volunteers

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADER:

Brandy Milton + Helper

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2) Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Brandy Milton, Co-Captain Donna Bean + Volunteer

November 22, 2015

\$ 3,140.00

\$ 4,598.27

\$226,442,91

\$ 11.980.86

\$ 12.734.67

**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)

Infants: Need Volunteers Toddlers: Makayla Brooks

**TELLERS:** Sherry Alexander,

John Koehler

**USHERS:** Volunteers Needed

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: November 29-December 5** 

Today, November 29 Rickie Neagle

December 1 Madison Kelly

December 3 Brenda Jenkins

December 4 Anne Lineberger

December 5 Aaron Nault

## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, November 29

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Baptism

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, December 1

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Wednesday, December 2

6:00 pm Meal

6:45 pm Vespers Unfailing Light

7:30 pm Chamber Choir

Saturday, December 5

7:00 pm Staying Connected

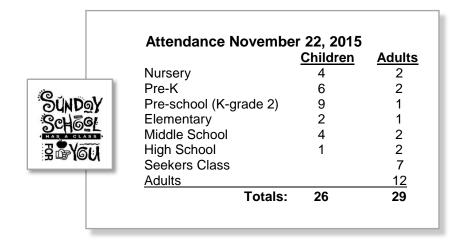
Meet at church & bring an appetizer to share & a \$10-\$15 gift to exchange



**NOTE:** An *Angel Tree* for *SOCKS* is available in the Education building. We still have some names on the tree. If you would like to provide Christmas gifts for a child this year, please take one of those remaining tags. We will also be asked to provide gifts for some of the foster children with Lutheran Family Services.



## Thank you in advance for taking part in this important ministry.



**THE CRECHE** is set up this morning with a manger and a blue vigil candle. The crèche suggests the lowliness and poverty surrounding our infant Savior who for humanity's sake became poor that through His poverty, people might become rich. (II Corinthians 8:9)

**THE BLUE CANDLE** in the crèche reminds us that we are to keep our hearts and minds in confession and prayer this entire Advent Season.



#### SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES:

**December 6:** 10:30 am **2**<sup>nd</sup> **Sunday in Advent** Worship w/Holy Communion

**December 13:** 10:30 am *Hanging of the Green* Service **December 20:** 10:30 am *Children's Christmas Program* 

With Holy Communion

December 24: 1:30 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service

10:40 pm Prelude

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

December 27: 10:30 am Worship Service

Holy Comforter will be featured in the first annual *Belmont's Historic Christmas Home Tour* on Sunday, December 6 from 1:00-6:00 pm. The tour will also include 5 historic homes all within walking distance of Holy Comforter. Our church will be the first stop on the tour so I need volunteers to help with registration and directing people. I need 20 volunteers from our church, 2 shifts of 10 volunteers each. Volunteer to work a 3-hour shift and spend the other 3 hours touring the historic homes for *FREE*.

On that day we will host live rehearsals from our Sanctuary throughout the afternoon. The schedule is as follows: 2-3 pm Children's Ensemble; 3-4 pm Adult Handbell Ensemble; 4-6 pm Church Choir.

Our fellowship hall will serve as a "tea room" that afternoon. Please email me if you are interested in volunteering! It is a great way to welcome the Christmas season and see the wonderful historic homes in Belmont.

Thank you, Misty Koehler Mistykoehler@gmail.com 704-266-0023



#### Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Kathy Graves. The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at <a href="https://www.holyc.org">www.holyc.org</a>.

#### PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin Holly Peche Mark Reese
Brenda Dabrowski Zac Hullander Beverly Reynolds
Shawn De Nicholas Chase Lineberger Anna Spikes
David Dowd Marquerite Shive Kevin Washle
Dot Holland

#### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Richard Abernethy Stacy Hunsucker **Beverly Howe Poag** Harriett Ange Dennis Jordan Jim Poag Taylor Propst & Family Paige Beaver Steven Keating **Buddy Kircus** Jenny Beer David Prouty Mike Butler Marshall Kinley Julio Quiros Father Frank Cancro Karin Larsen Anna Rudder Tangie Shingler Tina Capwell Terry Mahaffey Clell Davis Lynn McFarland Megan Sigler J. Don Devine Al McCov Christopher Stowe Zachary Evans Clav McCov E. Taylor & Family Jorge Frank Gene McRorie Carson Thomas Susan Nichols Jamey Gardner Sally Vanhoy Poss Garrett Mark Outlaw Gloria Ward Ronnie Garrison Alicia Overton Pastor Gary Weant Lewis Gilbert Family Ramesh Patel Olivia Wilcox Brian Hedrick Jean Peters Jeff Wiles

Matt Cisek Leo Kasmer

#### **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Jason Gardner Tom Kasmer Jeremy Shaver Dillon Kasmer Alex Norris



## We welcome into the membership of Holy Comforter by Holy Baptism **Noah Benjamin Rawlins**

The **2016 Flower Chart** is Now Available in the Narthex.

Please print your name at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 or both).

If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines.

Cost of both vases = \$45; One vase = \$22.50.

# Holy Doodles



To place a poinsettia *in honor of* or in *memory of* a loved one, or to the *glory of God*, please fill in the order form below and attach your payment. Make checks payable to *Holy Comforter* and be sure to put "poinsettia order" in the memo line of your check. Please **PRINT your information** (to reduce the chance of mistakes in spelling) and give to an usher or take to the church office. The cost of each poinsettia is \$15.00. All poinsettia orders are due to Dianne in the office by December 6<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Poinsellia Order Form</u>
YOUR NAME
TELEPHONE NUMBER
TOTAL NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED
IN HONOR OF:
IN MEMORY OF:
TO THE GLORY OF GOD:
PAID CHECK PAID CASH
(Remember to add <u>\$15.00 for each poinsettia</u> ordered.)  Payment must be attached to order form.
All orders <b>due</b> to Dianne in the office <b>by December 6<sup>th</sup>.</b> You may give your form and payment to an usher or take to the church office.

More order forms, if needed, are available from an usher.

## **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 Mandi Kline, Christian Education
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager