

LUTHERAN CHURCH of the HOLY COMFORTER

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 11, 2016

The Third Sunday of Advent

The Hanging of the Green



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *We're Here in Bethlehem* Children's Ensemble

We're here in Bethlehem
We've come a long way
We're tired, we're hungry
We have no place to stay
But we must find shelter
The baby will come soon
Here is a stable
This will be our room.

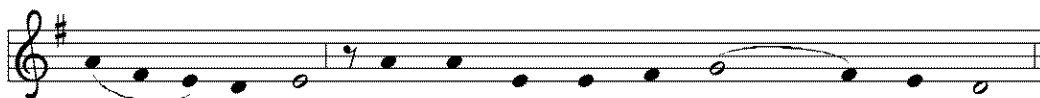
Tolling of the Bell

THE PROCLAMATION: Isaiah 40:3-5a

PROCESSIONAL CAROL: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* All Stand & Sing



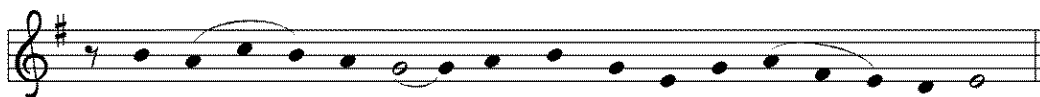
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

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

THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit

C Amen.

THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LITANY

P Give glory to the coming King.

C **Oh, come let us worship Him.**

P Blessings on Him who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Glory to God in the highest and Peace to His people on earth.**

P Blessed are you, Son of God, as you shine with the Father's love, illuminating the whole world.

C **Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

P With all the creatures on earth, we sing this birth.

C **Praise and honor and glory to you, O Lord most High.**

THE OPENING PRAYER

Please Be Seated

OFFERING: *Follow the Star to Bethlehem* Children's Ensemble

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

THE INVITATION

THE ANTHEM: *African Noel* Church Choir

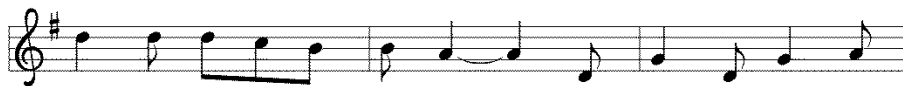


THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: The third candle represents **JOY**. There is everlasting joy in our hearts because of the birth of our Savior.

THE HYMN: *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* All Sing



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

THE ANTHEM: *Comfort Ye My People* Handbell Choir

THE SANCTUARY EVERGREENS

THE CAROL: *The First Noel* (Congregation Remains Seated)

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

Refrain: **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel!**

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night: **Refrain**

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

THE CRISMON TREE



THE ANTHEM: *Joy to the World* Church Choir

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA



THE CAROL: *Angels We Have Heard on High All Sing & Remain Seated*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing over the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE NATIVITY



CHRISTMAS CAROL: *Away in a Manger All Sing, Remain seated*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES



ANTHEM: *The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow* Chamber Choir

THE CAROL: *Silent Night* All Stand & Sing
Raise your candle at ***Christ, the Savior & Jesus, Lord***

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.



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

THE PROCLAMATION

THE BLESSING


THE PROCESSION INTO THE WORLD: *Joy To The World* All Stand & Sing (Please extinguish your candles at beginning of the hymn.)



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.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Let everyone know the hope and peace that fills you.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *Gloria* Wold

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PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Pastor: Micah Kearney

Music: Greg Cline

Director: Leslie Crist

Co-Direct: Beverly Mauney

Proclamation: Jim Buell

Altar Flowers: Katie Kessen
Jill Leitner

Banner: Emily Koehler

Acolytes: Noah Rawlins
Alec Via

Crucifer: Luke Via

Poinsettia Procession: Children of the Church

Door Wreaths: Jeff & Jane Howard

Handbell Choir

Church Choir

Chamber Choir

The Children of Holy Comforter

Percussion: Diann Halvorson

Bell Toll: Janet Achor

Readers: Brad Milton	Andrew Bryant
Jo Singleton	Charles Mauney
Elizabeth Bruchon	Rebecca Yount

Animals for the Manger: Children of the Church



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2016

GLORY TO GOD:

Pastor Micah & Jenn Kearney (2 poinsettias)
Kurt & Cynthia Scholler (2 poinsettias)

IN HONOR OF:

Greg Cline in honor of Tom & Shirley Causby
Greg Cline in honor of Faye & Warren Heller
Carmen, Arden & Merritt De Nicholas in honor of Dianne Lail (Grandma)
Greg Garrison in honor of Ronnie & Barbara Garrison, parents
Charles & Beverley Mauney in honor of Al McCoy, Ginger & Chuck, Jimmy & Katie,
Laurel, and all grandchildren

IN MEMORY OF:

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
Greg Garrison in memory of Grandmother & Grandfather Blanche & James Garrison
Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Herbert & Pauline Christenbury
Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Robert & Mary Kelly, Ken Hedrick
Dianne Lail in memory of A. O. Lail, father
Jill Leitner in memory of Hazel Turttts and Warren Bernhardt
Charles & Beverley Mauney in memory of Heather,
Betsy & Ray Mauney, and Mary McCoy
Debbie Mendez in memory of Alice & Mark Lyerly
Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of
Melvin D. Costner & Bill Larsen
Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of
Robert L Nault & Isabel D. Nault
Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Judy H. Summey
Lynne Sudarich in memory of her parents Len & 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.



A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Third Sunday of 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.

CHILDREN 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.



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 Beth Brittain in honor of the music ministry of Holy Comforter.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music

Offering and Attendance Report for Sunday, December 4, 2016:

Attendance: 150

Budget Report

December 4, 2016

Current Offering Received 12/4/16	\$ 6,661.50
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,019.46
Offering, Year-to-date (YTD)	\$ 244,235.02
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 13,410.11
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 2,113.61

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

READERS: Listed on page 9

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

Charles Mauney, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

GREETER: Sue Lahr

NURSERY: (9:30 – 11:45 am)

Infants: Volunteers

Toddlers: Staff

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

(None due to children's program)

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: December 11-17

Today, December 11 Beth Brittain

December 13 Brody Alvarez

December 15 Greg Cline

December 17 Mason Morton



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, December 11

9:30 am Sunday Church School

10:10 am Church Choir Prep

10:30 am ***Hanging of the Green Service***

Church council meets after the service

3:15 pm *Christmas play practice*

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

HCY party at the Carr's home

6:00 pm Church Choir

Wednesday, December 14

6:00 pm Meal

6:45 pm Vespers

7:30 pm Chamber Choir

Saturday, December 17

1:00 pm *Christmas play
Practice*

Christmas Caroling
(after practice)



Tuesday, December 13

7:00 pm Nar-Anon



Next Sunday, December 18, our children will present their Christmas Play during the service at 10:30 am.

We will also have Holy Communion.

THE ANGEL IS ADDED TO OUR CRECHE this morning to remind us that in the Advent Season, the angels announced the birth of John the Baptist to the old priest, Zechariah, and the foretelling of Jesus' birth in the fields of Bethlehem. Our Hymn of Praise, "Glory to God in the highest," is our recognition of the beautiful message the angels proclaimed.

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.

The 2017 Flower Chart is now available in the narthex.

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



SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES:

December 14: 6:00 pm Meal; 6:45 pm **Advent Worship**

December 18: 10:30 am **Children's Christmas Program**
With Holy Communion

December 21: 6:00 pm Meal; 6:45 pm **Advent Worship**

December 24: 1:00 pm **Children's Christmas Eve Service**

10:45 pm Prelude

11:00 pm **Candlelight Service with Holy Communion**

December 25: 10:30 am Regular Service with Holy Communion



Thank you for your participation in helping to provide Christmas gifts for the children whose name you chose from the **Angel Tree!** Some of the children are in Lutheran foster care and some are clients of SOCKS. **Both are important ministries that serve our community and that need your support.**



SOCKS gifts, wrapped & tagged, are due to Dianne in the office by tomorrow, December 12.

All year-end reports from committee and church group chairpersons are due to Dianne in the church office by January 2nd.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2017

If you are willing to serve as a ***Greeter***, ***Lector*** or ***Usher*** for the **2017** year, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet for each position you are volunteering for. Each volunteer position is listed on a separate clipboard. The clipboards are located in the narthex. If willing to volunteer for the whole month then sign your name at each date for that month.

The chief lector will serve on festival Sundays.

Holy Doodles





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Shirley Causby
Tommy Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Tom Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Ann Outlaw
Holly Peche

Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro
Terry Faulkner
Scott Frisk

Carol Fox
Parker Holland
Jeff Lail

Jennifer Lineberger
Capt. Basil Jeff Maret
Tim Reid



OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek
Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer
Leo Kasmer

Tom Kasmer
Mike Kelso

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

BCO DECEMBER ITEMS OF THE MONTH:

Ingredients for a Christmas meal

One or more of the following:

Frozen turkey or canned ham

Dressing mix

Canned beans

Canned corn

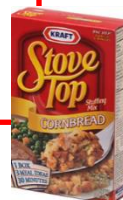
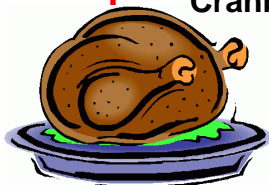
Cranberry sauce

Instant Potatoes

Sweet potatoes in can

Pumpkin pie mix

Monetary donations



Dear Holy Comforter Church Family,

I have been given the wonderful opportunity to go on a mission trip to Ecuador. I am so excited!! This will be my first mission trip. I will be leaving on February 16th for 10 days to witness, spread God's word and provide much needed supplies to underprivileged families. Our mission team is desperately trying to raise \$9000 to purchase the following:

- 1) 150 backpacks filled with school supplies
- 2) 100 plus Discipleship books and Bibles in their language (we would love to buy more money permitting)
- 3) Food for the "Bags of Love" we will be distributing
- 4) Balls and candy for the children

We are having our first fundraiser now! We are selling fully cooked Boston butts and/or turkeys just in time for Christmas. They will be cooked by a master chef and both are mouthwatering! The cost for either is \$30. If you would like to help us reach our goal you can contact me or pick up an order form in the narthex. I will need your order and money by December 19th. I will pick up the turkeys and Boston butts and have them for you Friday night, December 23rd, just in time for your Christmas dinner. I will be glad to work out arrangements to get them to you.

If you have any questions please contact me at [704-718-6161](tel:704-718-6161) OR email Shelia.Kelly9537@gmail.com. Thank you Holy Comforter for supporting me with this mission, as I feel lead to witness to those who don't have the opportunities to know God's word as we do.

Mark 16:15, Jesus said: "And He told them, GO into all the world and preach the good news to everyone."

In Christ, Shelia Kelly

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street 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, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager