

# LUTHERAN CHURCH of the HOLY COMFORTER

P. O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 13, 2015

## 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 Lord, How Shall I Meet You . . . . .* All Stand & Sing

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite  
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

## 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:** *Keep God's Light* . . . . . 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 ANTHEM:** *Advent Processional* . . . . . Chamber Choir

## THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

**THE ANTHEM:** *Good King Wenceslas* . . . . . 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:** *He is Born* ..... 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 his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid 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:** *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* . . . . . **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.

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

## 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

Children's Ensemble Co-Director: Beth Brittain

Co-Direct: Katie Kessen

Fran Holland

Proclamation: Jim Buell

Altar Flowers: Tracey Nault

Ashton Nault

Banners: Catherine Carr/Tyler Ange

Acolytes: Noah Rawlins

Alec Via

Crucifer: Luke Via/Tyler Ange

Garland for Advent Wreath: Shirley Causby

Greg Byrum

Door Wreaths: Kristen & Elliott Williams

Handbell Choir

Church Choir

Chamber Choir

The Children of Holy Comforter

Percussion: Steve Bingham

Readers: Brad Milton

Brandi Milton

Melissa Bocchino

Brian Achor

Donna Bean

Steve Bingham

Animal for the Manger: Matthew Carr





# POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2015

## GLORY TO GOD:

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

## IN HONOR OF:

Greg Byrum in honor of Mrs. Olin S. (Libby) Byrum, Jr.  
Dean Burwell in honor of Elizabeth Burwell  
Dean Burwell in honor of Cooper Burwell  
Tommy & Shirley Causby in honor of Greg Cline  
Tommy & Shirley Causby in honor of Margaret Sparks  
Greg Cline in honor of Tom & Shirley Causby and Faye & Warren Heller  
Greg Cline in honor of all Church Musicians  
Greg Garrison in honor of Ronnie & Barbara Garrison, parents  
Dianne Lail in honor of Family & Friends, living and deceased  
Lynn Martin in honor of Sylvia Miller  
Charles & Beverley Mauney in honor of Al McCoy; Ginger, Chuck & Jake MacDonald;  
Jimmy, Katie, Henry & Anna Spikes; Laurel; and Mark & Rebecca Yount  
Luke & Alec Via and Noah Rawlins in honor of Fran Holland

## IN MEMORY OF:

Donna Bean & Horace Bean in memory of Faye Bean and the Hamilton Family  
Donna Bean & Horace Bean in memory of HA & Lucille Bean  
Greg Byrum in memory of Olin S. Byrum, Jr.  
Jill Cassell in memory of Dick Michael  
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 Ken Hedrick  
Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Robert & Mary Kelly  
Vivian Lane in memory of John Lane, husband  
Lynn Martin in memory of Jack Miller  
Lynn Martin in memory of Adam Kijewski  
Charles & Beverley Mauney in memory of Pam & Heather Mauney,  
Betsy & Ray Mauney, Harold & Virginia Lawber, and Mary McCoy  
Sylvia Miller in memory of Adam Kijewski  
Sylvia Miller in memory of Jack Miller  
Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Judy H. Summey  
Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Isabel D. Nault  
Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Robert L. Nault

Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Melvin D. Costner  
Carol & Phil Posey in memory of Norris Pruitt  
Carol & Phil Posey in memory of William Posey  
Gary & Karen Rogers in memory of Harry & Helen Laver  
Jo & Harold Singleton in loving memory of parents: Joseph & Lillie Surret  
Jo & Harold Singleton in loving memory of parents: John & Ruby Singleton  
Lynne Sudarich in memory of her parents Len & Marie Sudarich  
Deb Williams in memory of husband, Bob Williams  
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 in 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God and in memory of her husband Bill by Kathy Graves; and by Linda Grimsley & Cher Grant in honor of Betty Grimsley.

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

***Greg Byrum, Worship & Music***

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**Offering and Attendance Report for Sunday, December 6, 2015:**

Attendance: 145

**Budget Report**

	<b><u>December 6, 2015</u></b>
Current Offering Received 12/6/15	\$ 9,161.49
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,598.27
Offering, Year-to-date (YTD)	\$ 238,951.20
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 10,946.71
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 15,445.66

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**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr., Beth Brittain

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:** Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)

Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain

Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer

**GREETER:** Bill Hollar

**NURSERY:** (9:30 – 11:45 am)

*Infants:* Rebecca Y. & Ginger M.

*Toddlers:* Jill Leitner

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:**

Maria & Madison Carr

**TELLERS:** Janet & Brian Achor

**USHERS:** Volunteers Needed

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**BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK:** December 13-19

Today, December 13 Brody Alvarez

December 15 Greg Cline

December 17 Mason Morton

December 19 Dennis Tucker



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**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

**Today, December 13**

9:30 am Sunday Church School

10:10 am Church Choir Prep

10:30 am *Hanging of the Green Service*

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm **HCY**, Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

**Tuesday, December 15**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**Wednesday, December 16**

6:00 pm Meal

6:45 pm Vespers

7:00 pm Chamber Choir



**Saturday, December 19**

2:00 pm **Christmas Play practice**

3:00 pm **Kids' Club**

Special activities & a  
visitor from the North Pole



**Next Sunday, December 20**, 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 2016 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 16:** 5:45 pm Meal; 6:30 pm Vespers

**December 20:** 10:30 am **Children's Christmas Program**  
With Holy Communion

**December 24:** 1:30 pm **Children's Christmas Eve Service**  
10:45 pm Prelude

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

**December 28:** 10:30 am Regular Service with Christmas Carols



**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 [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).

### **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
Paige Beaver	Steven Keating	Taylor Propst & Family
Jenny Beer	Buddy Kircus	David Prouty
Mike Butler	Marshall Kinley	Julio Quiros
Libby Byrum	Karin Larsen	Anna Rudder
Father Frank Cancro	Terry Mahaffey	Tangie Shingler
Tina Capwell	Lynn McFarland	Megan Sigler
Clell Davis	Al McCoy	Chris Stowe Family
J. Don Devine	Clay McCoy	E. Taylor & Family
Zachary Evans	Gene McRorie	Carson Thomas
Jamey Gardner	Susan Nichols	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

All year-end reports from committee and church group chairpersons are due to Dianne in the church office by January 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Thank you** for your participation in helping to provide Christmas gifts for the children whose name you chose from the **AngelTree!**

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 help.**



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2016

If you are willing to serve as a **Greeter**, **Lector** or **Usher** for the **2016** 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.**

**Thank you for volunteering to help serve each Sunday.**



**BCO item of the month: RICE**



# Holy Doodles



**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager