

# LUTHERAN CHURCH of the HOLY COMFORT

P. O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 15, 2013

## The Third Sunday of Advent

### *The Hanging of the Green*



Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

**CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE GIFT.** ..... *Joy to the World*

### GATHERING/WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *He Came Down* ..... Children's Ensemble sings verse 1  
All Sing remaining verses



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

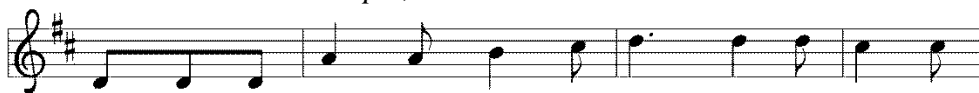
Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

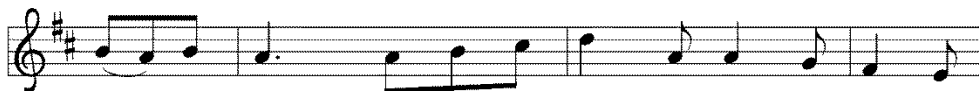
*Tolling of the Bell*

**THE PROCLAMATION:** Isaiah 40:3-5a

## PROCESSIONAL CAROL: *People, Look East* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



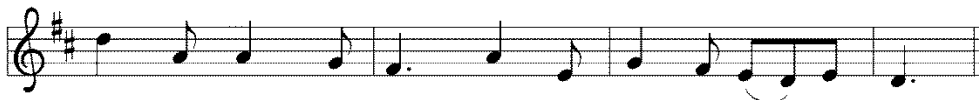
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

## 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:** *Carols of Celebration* . . . . . Church Choir

## THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

### THE INVITATION

**THE ANTHEM:** *What Star Is This?* . . . . . 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:** *I Saw Three Ships* . . . . . Chamber Choir

## THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

**THE ANTHEM:** *Come, O Come, Emmanuel* . . . . . 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:** *Good King Wenceslas* . . . . . Handbell 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 bright 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:** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* . . . . . 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



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!

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## PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Pastor: John Propst

Music: Greg Cline

Director: Leslie Crist

Children's Ensemble Director: Beth Brittain

Co-Direct: Karen Rogers

Barbara Kasmer

Proclamation: Brian Achor

Altar Flowers: Misty Koehler

Maria Carr

Banners: Madison Carr

Claire Mitchell

Acolytes: Noah Rawlins

Alec Via

Crucifer: Noah Rogers

Garland for Advent Wreath: Shirley Causby  
Myra Hollar

Door Wreaths: Beth Brittain  
Greg Byrum

Handbell Choir

Handbell Solo: Janet Achor

Church Choir

Chamber Choir

Offertory Conductor: Steve Bingham

Percussion: Elizabeth Bruchon & Diann Halvorson

Readers: Susan Woodcock     Brandy Milton

Rodger Walker     Brad Milton

Debbie Baker     Julia Gunter

**NOTE:** The offering anthem, *Carols of Celebration*, comes from “Tapestry of Light,” a collection of traditional carols primarily from the British Isles. The church choir will present this anthem during our upcoming **96<sup>th</sup> annual Community Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**. At this service, accompaniment will feature this anthem with violin and cello.



## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2013

### GLORY TO GOD:

The De Nicholas Family

Dianne Lail

Kurt & Cynthia Scholler (2 poinsettias)

Bob & Denise Wiegand for their family

### IN HONOR OF:

Adult Sunday Class in honor of Greg Byrum

Adult Sunday School Class in honor of John Kreitzer

Bocchino Family in honor of their 3 children: Lucy, Alex & Henry

Greg Byrum in honor of Mrs. Olin Byrum, Jr. (Libby)

Greg Cline in honor of Tom & Shirley Causby and Faye & Warren Heller

Dr. Raul & Jo Anne de la Vega in honor of Mrs. Betty Kannapel

Kathy Graves in honor of son, Blair Stroup



Dean & Diann Halvorson in honor of Curt Halvorson & Helena Noel  
Shelia & Tim Kelly in honor of Nathan  
Shelia & Tim Kelly in honor of Madison  
Beverley & Charles Mauney in honor of Ginger, Chuck and Jake; Laurel, Jimmy & Katie  
Khloe Tench in honor of her mommy, Nana & Papaw  
Elizabeth, Sarah & Khloe June Tench in honor of Jack & Laura Tench and Bonnie Tench  
Bob & Denise Wiegand in honor of their new granddaughter Leigh-Ann  
Rebecca & Mark Yount and Luke & Alec Via in honor of Noah Rawlins & Family  
Rebecca & Mark Yount in honor of Luke and Alec Via

### IN MEMORY OF:

Donna Bean in memory of Faye Hamilton Bean  
Steve & Deborah Bingham in memory of John Bingham  
Bocchino Family in memory of Ruth Mencer  
Greg Byrum in memory of Olin Byrum Jr.  
Eric & Renee Carpenter in memory of Frank Carpenter  
Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. William Kannapel,  
Dr. & Mrs. Raul E. de la Vega and Rose Strait  
Monique Estelle in memory of Gisela Stone  
Dallas & Gayla Foscue in memory of Troy & Nannie Foscue  
Dallas & Gayla Foscue in memory of Cecil & Carolyn Bierley  
Kathy Graves in memory of husband, Bill Graves  
Marsha Kinley in memory of May Cloninger  
Marsha Kinley in memory of Thelma Kinley  
Lynn Martin in memory of Adam Kijewski  
Charles & Beverley Mauney in memory of Heather, Betsy & Ray Mauney,  
and Sandy McCoy  
Virginia Neagle in memory of Mom & Dad and Carl Neagle  
Phil & Carol Posey in memory of William Posey  
Phil & Carol Posey in memory of Norris & Althea Pruitt  
Nancy Powell in memory of James & Margaret Sipe  
Beverly Reynolds in memory of Joe Reynolds  
Gary & Karen Rogers in memory of Harry & Helen Laver  
Lynne Sudarich in memory of her parents, Leonard & Marie Sudarich  
Jack, Laura, Elizabeth, Sarah & Khloe June Tench in memory of Howard Tench  
and Dorothy Thulin  
Mark & Rebecca Yount, Luke & Alec Via in memory of Heather M. Yount and  
John Yount

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

**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.

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**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. A nursery for children (**infants through 3 years old**) is located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.



**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.

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**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 board, please fill out a form from the prayer book.**

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**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Mark & Rebecca Yount in memory of Heather Yount.

**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 8, 2013:**

Attendance: 160

**Budget Report**

**December 8, 2013**

Current Offering Received on 12/8/13

\$ 4,720.50

Budget Expenses, Month-To-Date

\$ 4,601.90

Offering, Month-To-Date

\$10,041.85

The Current Offering Received for the year through December 8, 2013 is \$22,438.58 more than the amount needed through that date.

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**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.

## **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Jr., Sandra Cline

## **ACOLYTES:**

Claire Mitchell, Garrett Fox

## **ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3)

Fran Holland, 0-Captain

Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain

Courtney Gatlin Tracey Nault

Stephanie Hinson

## **CRUCIFERS:**

Hannah Carnes, Noah Rogers

## **TELLERS:** Shelia & Tim Kelly

**USHERS:** Denise Wiegand +  
Volunteer/s

## **GREETER:** Pat Koehler

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## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK:** December 15-21

Today, December 15 Greg Cline

December 19 Pam Abernethy

Dennis Tucker

December 21 Denise Jenkins

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## **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

### **Today, December 15**

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 Adult Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

### **Saturday, December 21**

2:45 pm Children's *Final*  
Christmas Play Practice

3:30 pm **Christmas Caroling**  
*Kids' Club* meets after for  
hot cocoa & cookies

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### **Tuesday, December 17**

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

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**Sunday, December 22** our **children will present their Christmas Play** during the service at 10:30 am. We will also have Holy Communion.

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**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.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Women of the church are invited to an ***Epiphany Tea*** on Saturday, **January 4 at 3:00 pm** in the church fellowship hall. Refreshments provided. Please bring a few holiday pictures and we will complete a scrapbook page!

**The 2014 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.

If you would be willing to serve as a ***Eucharist Presenter*** during **2014**, please sign your name at the date you wish to serve. Sign-up sheet located in the narthex.

**2014 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex for you to pick up.**



### **SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES:**

**December 22:** 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 29:** 10:30 am Regular Service with Christmas Carols

### **Sunday School Attendance December 8, 2013**

Nursery	1 child	1 adult
Pre-K	5 children	1 adult
God's Eden	8 children	1 adult
Youth	1 child	1 adult
Seekers		4 adults
<u>Adult Bible Class</u>		<u>15 adults</u>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>15 children, 25 adults</b>	

# **The 2014 Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19** before the worship service.

**All year-end reports from committee and church group chairpersons are  
due to Dianne in the church office by Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

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## **PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER**

Sherry Alexander &  
Family  
Louise Austin  
Virginia Crump

Daniel Dowd  
Ferrie Hedrick  
Richard Holden  
Zac Hullander

Lee Ireland  
Dianne Lail  
Chase Lineberger  
Liz Propst

## **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Kathy Beam  
Dale Burris  
Family of Rick Eckard  
Ronnie Hagy  
Brian Hedrick  
Kathy Helton  
Dot Hollar  
Betty Fox  
Claudia Frazier  
Ronnie Hersey

Betty Kannapel  
Laura Lanuto & Family  
Jeff Lail  
Ruth Lail  
Dan Martin  
Sandra Nix  
Butch Passailaigue  
Jean Peters  
Taylor Propst & Family  
Mara Rappleyea

Joel Rivera (NY)  
Steve Sanford  
Megan Sigler  
Ramona J. Sinclair  
Jimmy Surratt  
Charmaine Townsend  
Buck Weatherford  
Beverly F. Wall  
Gloria Ward



## **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer


Jeremy Shaver

Please remember these people in your prayers.

**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know or tell  
Dianne in the church office.**

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).

# WHAT'S THE WEATHER?



If you are concerned, due to inclement weather, as to whether we will have church services or planned activities, please check the following for information:

- Call the church office at 704-825-2483 and listen to the recorded message.
- Check the church website at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org)
- Watch WSOC-TV for their list of closings and/or delays.
- An email will be sent. ***Please give us your email address if we do not have it.***

We will do our best to keep you informed.



**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

PO Box 666 216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

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

John Propst, Interim Pastor - [JohnCPropst@gmail.com](mailto:JohnCPropst@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:00pm  
(Lunch break taken sometime between Noon – 1:00pm, it varies)