

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 15, 2019

The Third Sunday of Advent

The Hanging of the Green



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster



GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Get Ready for Jesus* Children's Ensemble

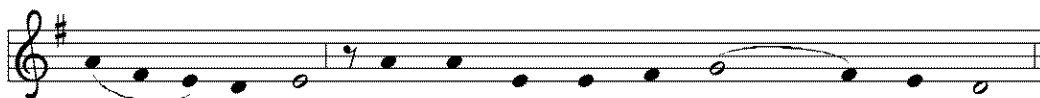
Tolling of the Bell

THE PROCLAMATION: Isaiah 40:3-5a

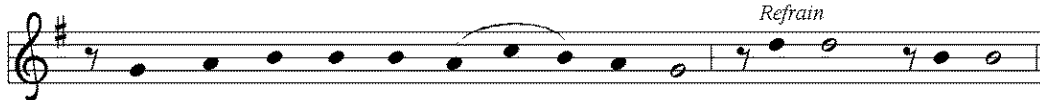
PROCESSIONAL CAROL: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel All Stand & Sing*



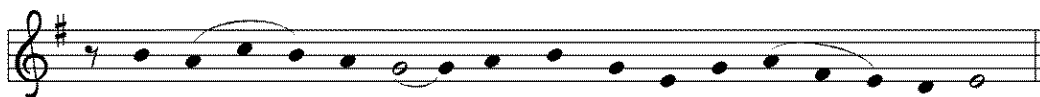
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 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 Canticum 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: *We Arise This Day* Church Choir

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

THE INVITATION

THE ANTHEM: *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*Chamber 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.



Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

THE ANTHEM: *Here We Come A-Caroling* 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: *Keep God's Light.* Church Choir

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA



THE CAROL: *In the Bleak Midwinter* **All Sing & Remain Seated**



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

THE NATIVITY



CHRISTMAS CAROL: *Love Has Come* **All Sing, Remain seated**



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES



ANTHEM: *O Holy 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

Co-Direct: Fran Holland

Proclamation: John Crist

Altar Flowers: Debbie Bray, Dee Smith

Banner: Noah Rollins

Acolytes: Jack Bryant & Lucy Bocchino

Crucifer: Catherine Carr

Poinsettia Procession: Children of the Church

Door Wreaths: Nathan & Amanda Kelly

Handbell Choir

Church Choir

Chamber Choir

Children's Ensemble

Bell Toll: Janet Achor

Readers: Beverly Robinson

Jim Buell

Brian Achor

Alex Sarrazin

Jill Cassel

Rebecca Yount

Animals for the Manger: Children of the Church



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2019

GLORY TO GOD:

Kurt & Cynthia Scholler (2 poinsettias)

IN HONOR OF:

Greg Byrum in honor of Mrs. Olin S. (Mary) Byrum

Greg Byrum in honor of Cullen McKay

Shirley Causby in honor of Greg Cline

Greg Cline in honor of Shirley Causby

Greg Cline in honor of Faye & Warren Heller

The Kearney Family in honor of the saints of Holy Comforter, past and present (2 poinsettias)

IN MEMORY OF:

Donna Bean in memory of Faye H. Bean

Jim, Alex & Garrett Buell in memory of Carmen Buell (2 poinsettias)

Greg Byrum in memory of Mr. Olin S. Byrum

Shirley Causby in memory of Tommy Causby

Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. William Kannapel

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 Susan K. Misner

Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Robert & Mary Kelly & Shelia's father, Ken Hedrick

Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory Shelia's sister, Norma Dougherty

Jo and Harold Singleton in memory of their parents (2 poinsettias)

Lynne Sudarich in memory of her parents Marie & Leonard Sudarich

Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke & Alec Via in memory of Heather Mauney Yount

Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke & Alec Via in memory of Paul Outlaw

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

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

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 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 board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the online form at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given by Mark & Rebecca Yount, Luke & Alec Via in memory of Heather Mauney Yount.

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

THE FIGURES ADDED TO OUR CRECHE this morning are the animals. When there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn, they took shelter in the stall with the animals. The animals present at Jesus' birth are a reminder of our king and savior's humble beginnings, as well as his coming into the world for the sake of all Creation.



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.

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, December 8, 2019:

Attendance: 112

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 3,335.50	\$262,385.38	(19,457.71)
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$280,277.85	1,565.13
Offering less Expenses	\$ (2,438.85)	(\$ 17,892.57)	(17,892.57)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 12/8/2019

Goal: \$225,000
Received to Date: 225,050

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

GREETER: Pat Long

NURSERY:(10:30-11:45 am) Stacy Kirby

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)
Katie Howard, Captain
Dean Halvorson
Diann Halvorson

TELLERS: Tim and Shelia Kelly

USHERS: Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:
Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, December 15

8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School

Handbells

10:10 am Church choir prep

10:30 am Hanging of the Green

3:00 pm Christmas Play

4:00 pm Santa Claus Visit

5:00 pm HCY Christmas Party

6:00 pm Church choir practice

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, December 18

5:00 pm Youth Handbells

6:00 pm Advent Dinner

6:45 pm Advent Worship

7:20 pm Chamber Choir

Monday, December 16

6:00 pm PEP Exercise Class

Thursday, December 19

7:00 pm Council/Staff Christmas
Party

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: December 15-21

December 15 Greg Cline

December 17 Mason Morton



Sciatica! WHAT is it? You hear folks speak of this ailment all the time, "my sciatica is acting up," or "I've got sciatica." But what, exactly IS it? The sciatica nerves are the longest nerves in the body. They exit your lower spine and group together in the pelvis, and then split off into two branches, with a branch running down the back of each buttock, leg and into the foot. When one of these nerves becomes inflamed, the condition is called sciatica. Symptoms include pain radiating from the lower back into the buttock and down the back or outside of the leg. The pain can come on suddenly, like a lightning bolt, or it can present itself as a dull, nagging toothache type of pain. The good news is...sciatica IS treatable. If you experience this type of pain, first try resting your back and, if your doctor allows it, use a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug for a few days to see if it relieves it. If not, then call your doctor. He/she will be able to provide you with proper treatment.

December BCO Items

Crackers

Pasta Sauce

Jelly

Cookies





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Family of
Brenda Dabrowski
Becke Featherstone
Ellen Fleming

Sarah Tench Helms
Kay Holden
Zac Hullander
Ben Moose
Sherry Perry
Caitlan Reese

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Janice Barker
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Mark Glaeser
Meredith Hovis

Mary Huggins
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Family and Friends of
Sue Parsons Mast
Al McCoy
Clarence McLain

Family of Dawn Mitchell
Ann Mundy
Linda Nichols
Robert Nichols
Sarah Nichols
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Jeff Wiles

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



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 in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays.**



Holy Doodles



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

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse