

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 17, 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent

The Hanging of the Green



Micah Kearney

Greg Cline

Pastor

Organist/Choirmaster

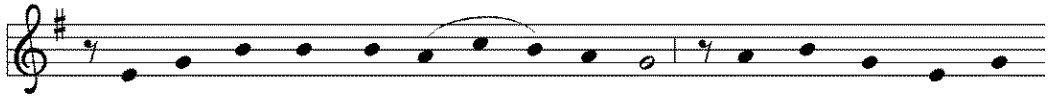
GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Stir Up Your Power*Chamber Choir

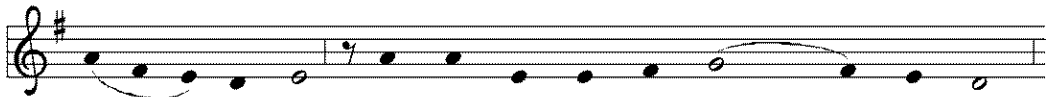
Tolling of the Bell

THE PROCLAMATION: Isaiah 40:3-5a

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



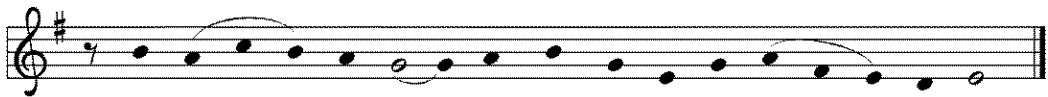
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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.

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: *The Holy Child* Church Choir

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

THE INVITATION

THE ANTHEM: *Before the Marvel* 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.



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: *Angels Singing, Tidings Ringing* 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



CAROL: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*..... All Sing



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEZY, Polish carol

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 noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES



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: *Angels We Have Heard on High* Wold

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council
of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under One License #A-724639

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Pastor: Micah Kearney

Music: Greg Cline

Directors: Leslie Crist & Fran Holland

Proclamation: Bob Koehler

Altar Poinsettias: Jenn Kearney & Ellie Holloway

Acolyte: Gabriel and Nathaniel Kearney

Crucifer: Mason Morton

Poinsettia Procession: Children of the Church

Door Wreaths: Mark and Linda Cox

Handbell Choir

Church Choir

Chamber Choir

Bell Toll: Janet Achor

Readers:	Brian Achor	Anne Reece	Jeff Howard
	Rebecca Yount	Nathan & Amanda Kelly & Family	Julia Gunter

Animals for the Manger: Children of the Church



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2022



TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

John & Leslie Crist

IN HONOR OF:

Shirley Causby in honor of Greg Cline

Micah Kearney in honor of Saints of Holy Comforter

Julia Gunter in honor of The Altar Guild

Greg Cline in honor of Shirley Causby

Greg Cline in honor of Faye and Warren Heller

John & Leslie Crist in honor of our grandchildren: Wyatt & Brooklyn Sutzenfield, Max & Oliva McCotter, Patrick & Jacob Crist

Carole Jolley in honor of Pastor Micah, Jenn and boys

Leigh & Shari Leverenz in honor of Emmaleigh and Jackson Bears

Mark & Anne Reese in honor of Barbara Reese, Sarah Reese and Caitan and Andrew Killian.

Ashley Hyman in honor of the Hyman Family

Mark & Rebecca Yount in honor of Luke & Alec Via

IN MEMORY OF:

Donna Bean in memory of Faye H. Bean

Jim and Jan Buel in memory of Bob Haubenreich

Jim, Jan, Alex and Garrett Buell in memory of Carmen Buell

Shirley Causby in memory of Tommy Causby

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

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

Carole Jolley in memory of her parents, PG & Sybil Jolley

Shelia and Tim Kelly in memory of Robert and Mary Kelly

Shelia and Tim Kelly in memory of Kenny and Alma Hedrick

Debbie Mendez in memory of Maria and Andres Mendez, Sr.

Debbie Mendez in memory of Alice and Mark Lyerly

Debbie Mendez in memory of Ruth Lyerly

Mark & Ann Reese in memory of Jim Reese and Shirley and Jim Robertson

Mark & Rebecca Yount in memory of Heather Yount

Mark & Rebecca Yount in memory of Paul and Judy Outlaw and John and Myra Yount

Sarah Monahan Moler in memory of James F Melton III

Greg Byrum in memory of Mr. Olin S Byrum Jr.

Greg Byrum in memory of Mrs. Amy Byrum McKay

Susan and Don Nelson in loving memory of our son, Charles Grafton and our daughter, Adrielle Goodwin.

If we have unintentionally made any errors or failed to include a mention, please contact the church office. Thank you!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday, December 17th

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship

5:00 pm - HCY

5:00 pm – Adult Handbells

6:00 pm – Church Choir

Tuesday, December 19th

7:00 pm – Virtual Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, December 20th

5:30 pm – Youth Handbells

6:00 pm – Advent Dinner

6:45 pm – Behold Our Light Worship

7:15 pm – Chamber Choir