

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 3, 2016

Second Sunday of Christmas



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

**GATHERING/WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

**C Amen.**

P Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

**C Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

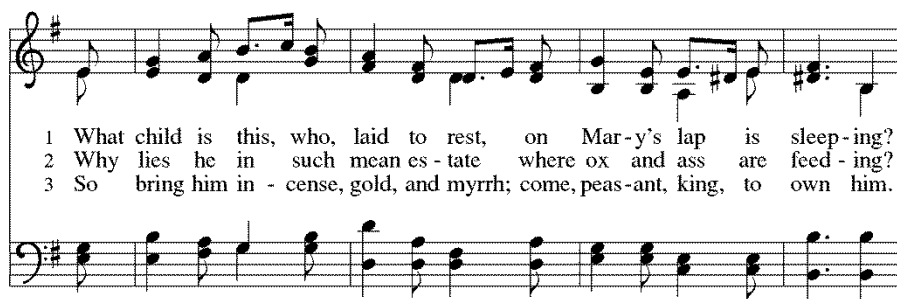
P God of peace,

**C we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

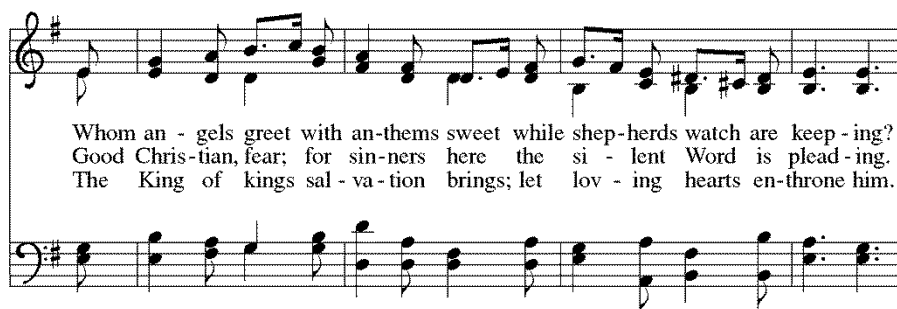
P In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of ☩ Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

**C Amen.**

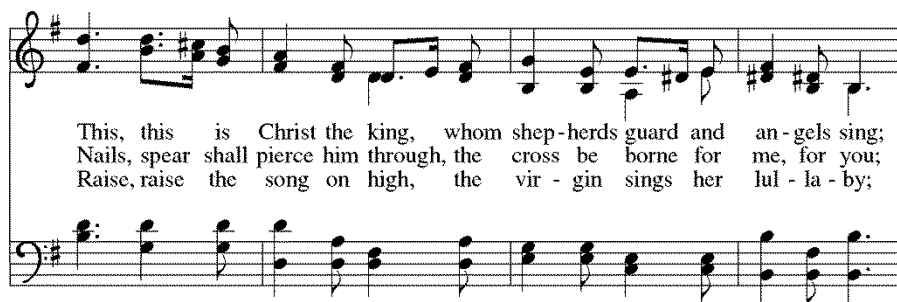
# GATHERING SONG: *What Child Is This* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



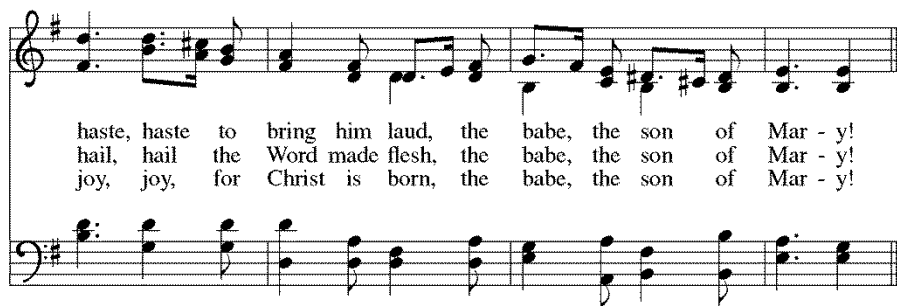
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

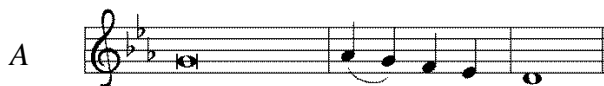
Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898  
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

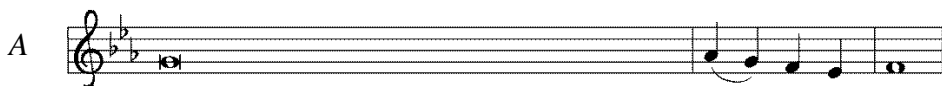
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



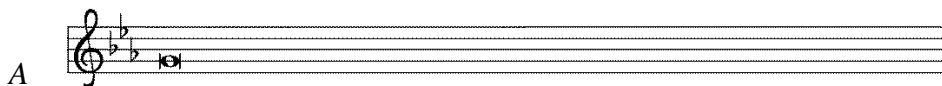
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



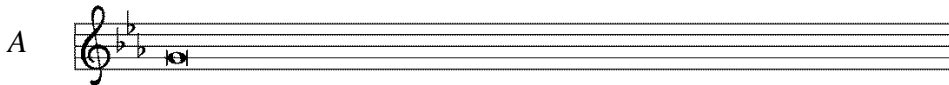
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,




let us pray to the Lord.

C    
 Lord, have mer - cy.

A    
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.


C    
 A - men, a - men.

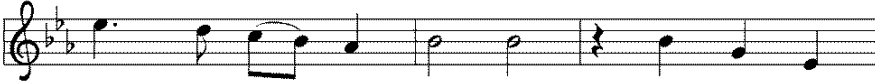
## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

   
 Glo - ry to God in the high -

   
 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

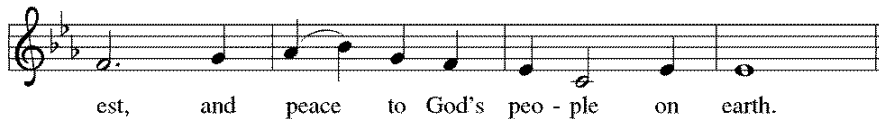
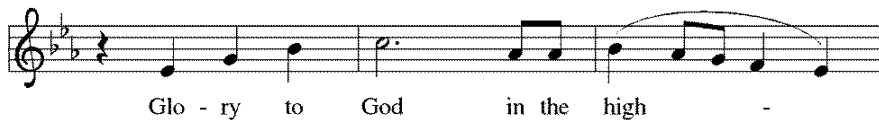
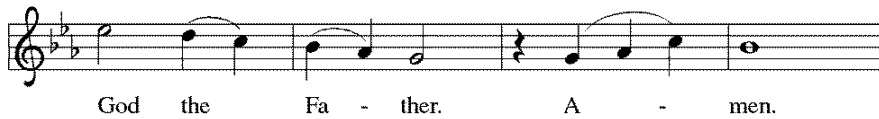
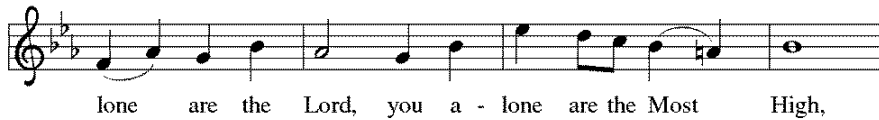
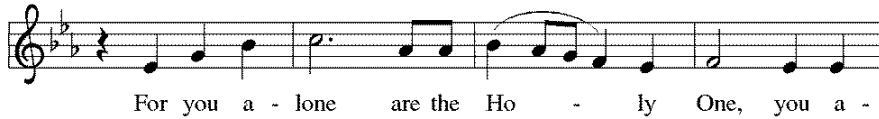
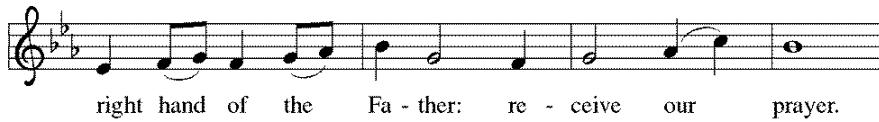
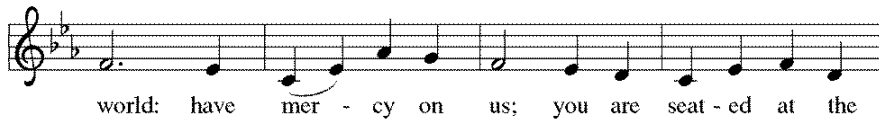
   
 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

   
 Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

   
 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

   
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

   
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Congregation is Seated and are invited to sing “Jesus Loves Me”  
as the children come forward.*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

**Children ages 4 to 8 years-old** are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together **immediately after the Children’s sermon**. *Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day.* Children **birth through 3 years-old** are invited to join others their age **in the nurseries**.

## FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 31:7—14**

A reading from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah.

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God’s gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20** ..... Read Responsively

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace| on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup>**God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING

**Ephesians 1:3–14**

A reading from the first chapter of Ephesians.

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION. . . . . All Stand & Sing

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

## GOSPEL

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

[<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.



<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did

not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

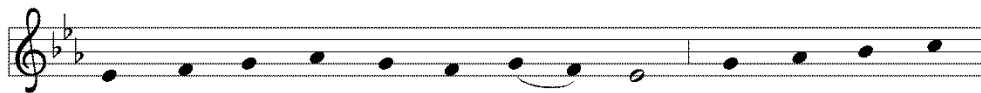
**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** ..... Pastor Micah



# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



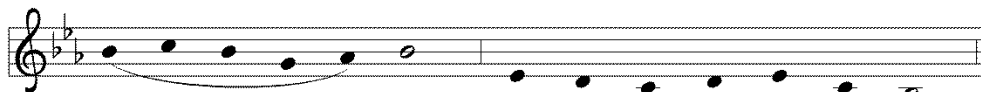
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite  
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Let us pray for the church throughout the world; for bishops, pastors, ministers of word and service, and all other leaders; for teachers and missionaries; for the newly baptized and those preparing for baptism. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For coastlands and mountains, rivers and deserts, prairies and valleys; for wilderness and cities, lakes and oceans; for farmlands and pastures, forests and rangelands; and for orchards, vineyards, and gardens. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those who live in the north and the south, the east and the west; for all who work for peace; for those whose safety is threatened by warfare; and for immigrants and refugees. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those who are hungry; for those who live with disabilities; for those who fear what the future holds for them; for those who grieve; and for all who are sick (*especially*).

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For this assembly; for council members and all other leaders; for those who help us learn from our past and plan for the future; and for all whose faithful stewardship sustains this congregation's ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and those who have pointed us toward the light of Christ and the truth of your love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other  
in the peace of the risen Christ.*

## PEACE

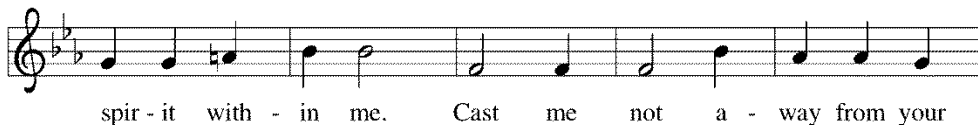
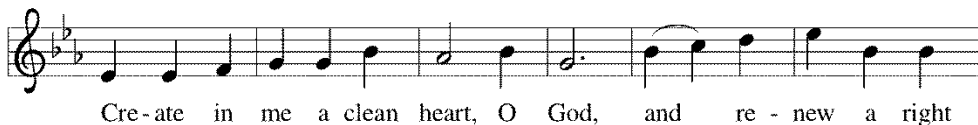
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

**RESPONSE:** *Create In Me* ..... All Stand and Sing



pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**P** Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**and the power, and the glory,**  
**forever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C **Amen.**

P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C **Amen.**

C May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C **Amen.**

P And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* . . . . . All Stand & Sing

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **Second Sunday of Christmas**. 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 to find one.



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

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Brandy, Brad & James Milton in honor of Brandy's father's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**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***



## **Offering and Attendance Report for Christmas Eve & Sunday, December 27, 2015:**

Attendance: Christmas Eve, 204; Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup>, 95

### **Budget Report**

### **December 24 & 27, 2015**

Current Offering Received 12/24 & 27/15	\$ 10,801.50
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,598.27
Offering, YTD	\$ 258,644.41
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 17,235.91
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 21,734.86

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### **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Jr.

**GREETER:** Volunteer

### **ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**TELLERS:** Raini Kimball,  
Dennis Tucker

### **ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1)

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains  
Carmen De Nicholas  
Deb Williams

**USHERS:** Need Volunteers

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Shelia Kelly + Helper

### **NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)

*Infants:* Jill & Kaylin Leitner; *Toddlers:* Maria & Catherine Carr

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### **BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK:** January 3-9

January 9 Chuck Kimball

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

#### **Today, January 3**

10:30 am Worship Service  
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

#### **Wednesday, January 6**

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

#### **Tuesday, January 5**

7:00 pm Chamber Choir  
Property Committee  
Nar-Anon

#### **Saturday, January 9**

9:00 am Confirmation Class at  
Antioch Lutheran, Dallas

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We welcome **Jo Irwin** as our guest keyboard artist this morning.



**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

### **OUR SERVICEMEN & SERVICWOMEN**



Hannah Carnes	Jason Gardner	Dillon Kasmer
Matt Cisek	Tom Kasmer	Alex Norris
Leo Kasmer	Jeremy Shaver	

## 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.

**2016 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex for you to pick up.**

**All year-end reports from committee and church group chairpersons are  
Due to Dianne in the church office.**

**Christian Ed Committee meets Tuesday January 26 at 7 in the fellowship hall.**

## 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.**



Blessings for you, friends & family  
this coming New Year!

### 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 Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager

# Holy Doodles



**BCO items of the month:  
Peanut butter & Jelly**

