Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

Micah Kearney Pastor



Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

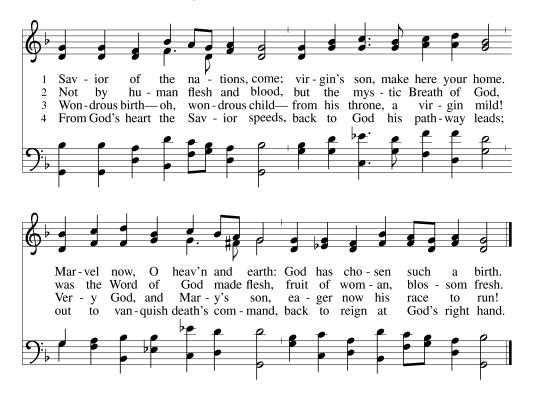
- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.
- C Amen.
- P Let us come before the living God in confession.

Silence for reflection.

- P As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
- C we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.
- P Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, \(\dagger) Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Savior of the Nations Come. All Stand & Sing



- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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





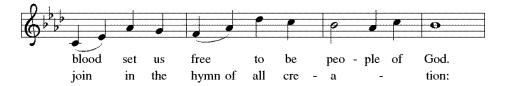
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



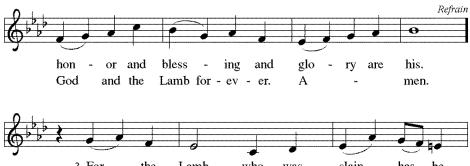


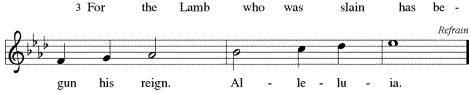












SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father 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 TIME

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 Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the second chapter of Isaiah.

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

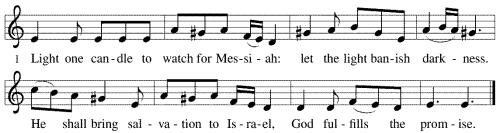
⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH: *Light One Candle* All Sing **The first candle represents HOPE**. Long ago, peoples' hearts were sustained by hope as they waited for a Savior. We hope, too, for the Savior and his love to fill and cover the world.



SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the thirteenth chapter of Romans.

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

- P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

	The assembly is seated.	
SERMON		Pastor Micah
	Silence is Kept for Reflection	

HYMN OF THE DAY: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn All Stand & Sing

- wake! Α wake, and 1 Α greet the new morn, for fear, 2 To us, all in sor row and Em to
- com -In dark est night his ing shall be, when Re joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. man - u - el comes a sing - ing, the world is de spair - ing, dark the win-ter cheer - less, and

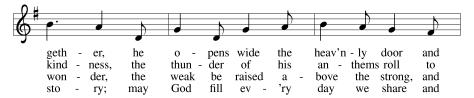
Sing out your joy, for hum - ble his song is as morn - ing light so ris - ing the sun shall



soon he is born, be hold! the Child of our long qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring ing; gen - tle car - ing. qui - et and free, so warm and and crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as by weak and poor, bring all hearts ba to mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing in song, Then shall the mute break forth the lame shall leap Love be song love our prayer and love our end - less our and





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen Text and Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the church cries to you. Strengthen the church in the land of Jesus' birth. Wherever Christians gather, empower them to proclaim love and defy the powers of sin and evil. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your creation cries to you. Sustain the balance of all living things. Protect the earth from drought, bitter cold, eroding coastlines, and fires and floods, that the earth may flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the nations cry to you. Bring justice to the marginalized, courage to peacemakers, wisdom to leaders, and hope to generations who have only known conflict, oppression, or poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your people cry to you. Comfort those separated from loved ones by distance, estrangement, or loss. Help us as we care for others and rely on others' care. (*We pray especially for* . . .). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, this congregation cries to you. Guide our worship, service, and outreach, that our hearts and hands may be opened in generosity toward others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, we remember those whose days on earth have ended, who live now in your eternal love. Remind us of their faithful witness, that their example might inspire our daily living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING



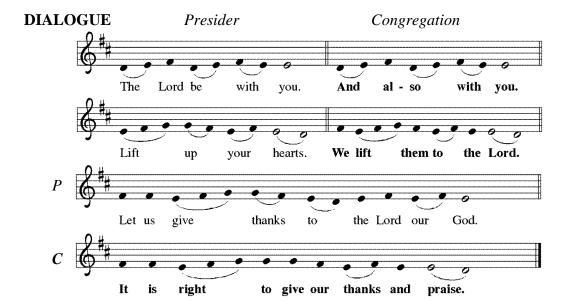


Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

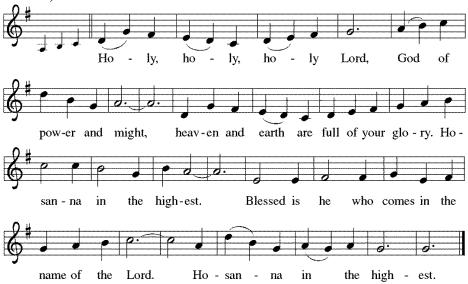
C Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. Amen.



PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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,

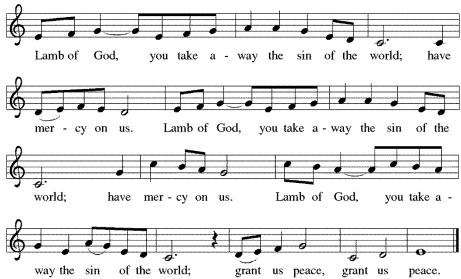
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.
- C Thanks be to God.

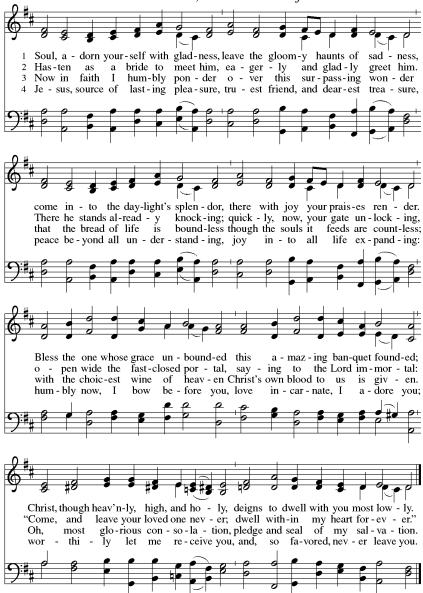
LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness. All Sing



Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

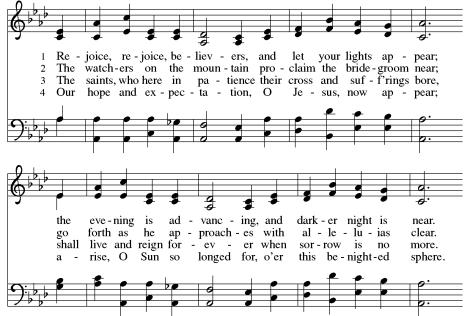
C God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. Amen.

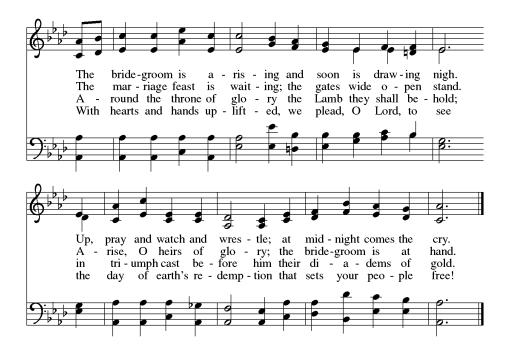
BLESSING

P May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.

May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, + one God, be upon you and remain with you forever. **C Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers.....* All Stand & Sing





Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

SENDING

- A Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this First 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 Sheila and Tim Kelly, in honor Madison's birthday.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, November 24, 2019:

Attendance: 123

Budget Report	This Week	Year-to-Date	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 4,180.61	\$257,411.38	(12,608.04)
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	<u>\$267,723.50</u>	2,295.93
Offering less Expenses	\$ (1,593.74)	(<u>\$ 10,312.12</u>)	(10,312.12)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 11/24/19

Goal: \$225,000 Received to Date: 182,217 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000 Remaining Needed: \$7,783



Poinsettia Order Forms are available in the Narthex. Poinsettias are \$15 each and we'd prefer payment to be attached to the order form if possible. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 8.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Brian Achor **GREETER:** Katie Howard

ACOLYTE: Jack Bryant TELLERS: Janet and Brian Achor

CRUCIFER: Volunteer CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jennifer Kearney

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Katie Howard, Captain

Dean Halvorson

Diann Halvorson **USHERS:** Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, December 1

8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church choir prep

10:30 am Worship w/ Holy Communion Blood Pressure Screening After Worship

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church choir practice

Monday, December 2

6:00 pm PEP Exercise Class

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: December 1-7

December 1 Madison Kelly December 3 Travis Flemming

December 4 Anne Lineberger



Tuesday, December 3

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am) Brandy Milton

3:30 pm Belmont Christmas Parade

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, December 4

5:00 pm Youth Handbells 6:00 pm Advent Dinner

6:45 pm Advent Worship

7:20 pm Chamber Choir

December 5 Aaron Nault Margaret Millard December 7 Jack Bryant



Healthy Thoughts: Mindful Listening and Watching

Among the joys of active Christian life is the opportunity to listen to glorious choral and instrumental music during weekly worship and at special concerts throughout the year. Each week we have the chance to lift our minds and thoughts to an elevated plane through music, liturgy, and readings. But what happens after we leave our house of worship? Are we as mindful in choosing what we listen to or what we choose to watch on TV or at the movies? Even without citing research-based evidence, just about everyone can recall

discomfort when hearing certain song lyrics, or recall a few sleepless nights spent remembering particularly violent or upsetting movie scenes. Be honest, you feel happier and more relaxed after watching a movie like "It's a Wonderful Life" than after a back-to-back marathon viewing of "Hoarders"? The good news is that making better and more informed choices has never been easier and more fun! Sites like Amazon, Netflix, and Pandora can help you select music, books, and movies by theme or genre. Mindfulness in selecting every bite of your ear and eye "food" is one way to properly feed your mind and enhance your spiritual journey. When we surround ourselves with sights and sounds by which we feel inspired, we make the choice to nourish the body, mind, and spirit!

NOTE: Today is blood pressure screening day! Stop by in the fellowship hall after worship so the nurses can check your pressure! Another healthy thing to do for yourself!

NOTE: PEP exercise class resumes this week. Come join us for gentle stretching and toning at 6:00 pm Monday evening!





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Brenda Dabrowski
Becke Featherstone
Ellen Fleming

Sarah Tench Helms Kay Holden Zac Hullander Ben Moose Sherry Perry 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
Family of
Mark Lineberger
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Al McCoy
Clarence McLain
Aaron Mintz

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.

