

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 1, 2017

The First Sunday of Christmas



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Mary, Did You Know?* Solo

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 One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, ☩ one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

P I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in ☩ Jesus' name.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming All Stand & Sing*

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind, To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth,
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alle catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

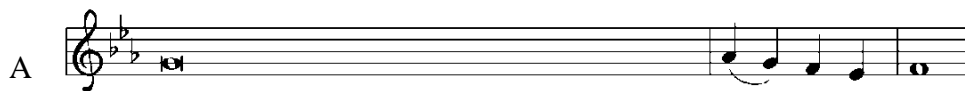
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



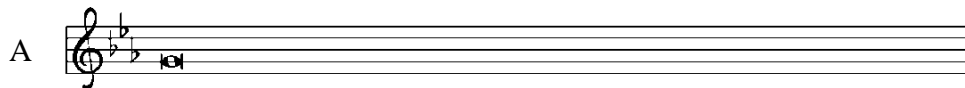
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



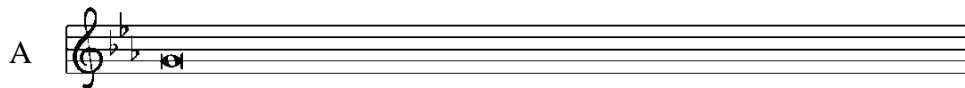
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

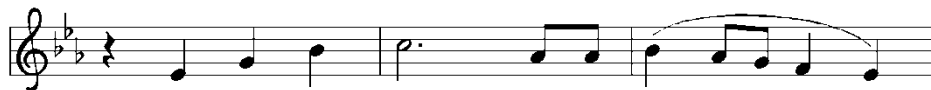


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

GLORY TO GOD



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



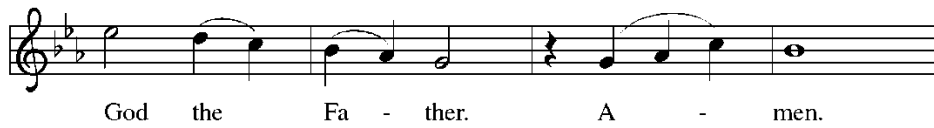
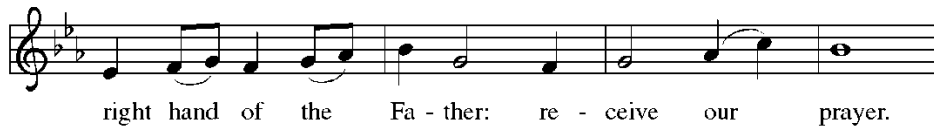
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



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



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





SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, 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 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 63:7–9

A reading from the sixty-third chapter of Isaiah.

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God’s own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God’s gracious deeds. God trusts that God’s people will not act falsely.

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,

according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely”;

and he became their savior

⁹in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148 Read Responsively

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens,**

old and young together.

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

A reading from the second chapter of Hebrews.

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE All Stand & Sing

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

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

Repeat alleluia

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

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

Matthew relates the slaughter of babies in Bethlehem as one example of evil in the world. Jesus has been born into this world to manifest God's presence and save his people from their sins.

¹³Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no

more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Guest Pastor John Stirewalt

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Love Has Come* All Stand & Sing



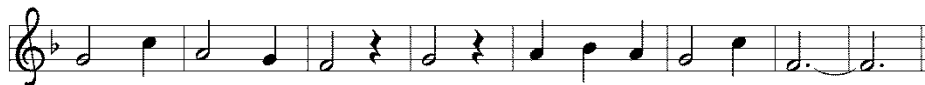
1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



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

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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.**

*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 ANTHEM: *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *What Child is This* All Stand & Sing
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, make your presence known throughout your church in all its different forms. Guide preachers and teachers to proclaim the work you do in this and every place.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You created the earth and all it contains. Send rain and snow to parched places so that plants and animals thrive. Direct us to be good stewards of all that you create. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You heal what is broken and make all things new. Grant peace in war-torn nations, diplomatic wisdom to leaders, and end the torment of violence, so that all people live in safety and security. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call us as your children and comfort us in our afflictions. Bring patience to the distressed, compassion to the grieving, and relief to the suffering (*especially*), so that all experience your loving care. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You gather us together and feed us with your word and sacrament. Send us forth to make your name known to all in our community by serving our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give us examples of Christ-like living through the witness of the faithful departed. As your beloved called on the name of Jesus throughout their lives, inspire us to call upon him in joy and in need. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.



SENDING SONG: *Angels We Have Heard on High* All Stand & Sing

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

4 and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 5 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 6 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

7 *Refrain*
 8 Glo - ri - a
 9

10 in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a
 11
 12



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Henry, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

DISMISSAL

- A Glory to God in the highest!
 C **Peace to God's people on earth!**
 A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **First Sunday after Christmas Day**. 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.



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.**

Offering and Attendance Report for Sunday, December 25, 2016:

Attendance December 24 & 25: 250

Budget Report

December 25, 2016

Current Offering Received 12/25/16	\$ 5,165.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,019.46
Offering, YTD	\$ 253,184.02
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 12,320.19
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 1,023.69

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Jr.

GREETER: Sherry Alexander

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Raini Kimball,
Dennis Tucker

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains

Donna Bean

USHERS: Need Volunteers

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: No Children's Church

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am) Need Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: December 25-3

December 26 Amy Alvarez

Beverly Robinson

December 28 Molly Koehler



December 29 Trudy Whitener

December 30 Elizabeth Tench

Luke Via

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, January 1

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, January 3

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

All music activities & Sunday School will resume on January 8th.

2017 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex for you to pick up.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Shirley Causby
Tommy Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Tom Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Ann Outlaw
Holly Peche

Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro
Terry Faulkner
Scott Frisk
Carol Fox

Brian Jackson & Family
Terry Faulkner & Family
Parker Holland
Jeff Lail

Jennifer Lineberger
Capt. Basil Jeff Marett
Tim Reid
Donnie Yavelak



OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek
Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer
Leo Kasmer

Tom Kasmer
Mike Kelso

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

The 2017 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.

All year-end reports from committee and church group chairpersons are due to Dianne in the church office by this week, January 5th.

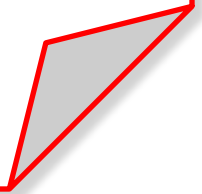


Welcome to Guest Pastor, John Stirewalt

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2017

If you are willing to serve as a ***Greeter***, ***Lector*** or ***Usher*** for the **2017** 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.**

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

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager