

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 1, 2013

The First Sunday in Advent

John Propst
Interim Pastor

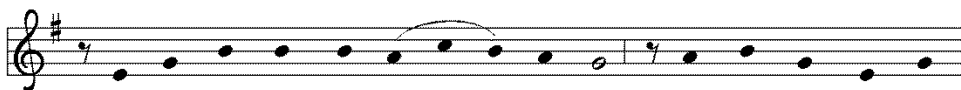
Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster



GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Carols for the Choirs* Chamber Choir

GATHERING SONG: *O Come, Emmanuel* All Stand & Sing



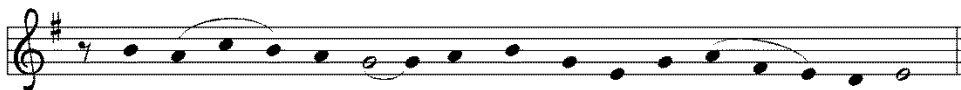
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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-joyce! Re-joyce!
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.

PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:

I present William James Milton for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have William James Milton baptized into Christ?

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister continues:

As you bring James to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that James may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help James grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support James by praying for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C 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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C 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.**

* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

P William James Milton, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

C **You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.**

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain James with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

William James Milton, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

A Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

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

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 nursery.**

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 that light of that Lord now!"

The 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 OF ADVENT WREATH: *Light One Candle . . . All Sing 1st Verse Only*

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.



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry,
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11–14

A reading from the thirteenth chapter of Romans.

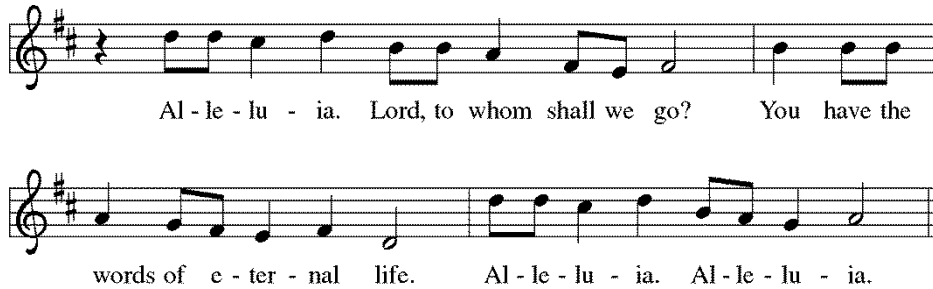
Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

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 ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36–44

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.

³⁶But 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.**

SERMON: *Advent: A Season to Slow Down & Wait!* (Notes page 21) Pastor John

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



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



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



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



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



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In hope and anticipation, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Gather all people into your house, O Lord, and open our eyes to your presence among us. Send us as witnesses, that others may see and be drawn to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Unite our voices to the great song of praise sung by mountains and rivers, fields and trees. Join our voices with theirs in announcing your promised coming throughout all creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transform our tools of war and destruction into instruments for cultivation and growth. Plant peace in places of conflict. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Be attentive to all who wait expectantly for your mercy in times of crisis, illness, fear, and grief. Answer them when they cry out to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal all who live with HIV/AIDS. Reveal your creative power through those who seek a cure, and give us compassion to bear our neighbors' burdens. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have clothed the saints in the light of Christ. Teach us to live in his ways until the great day when he comes to make all things new. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord

Amen.

PEACE

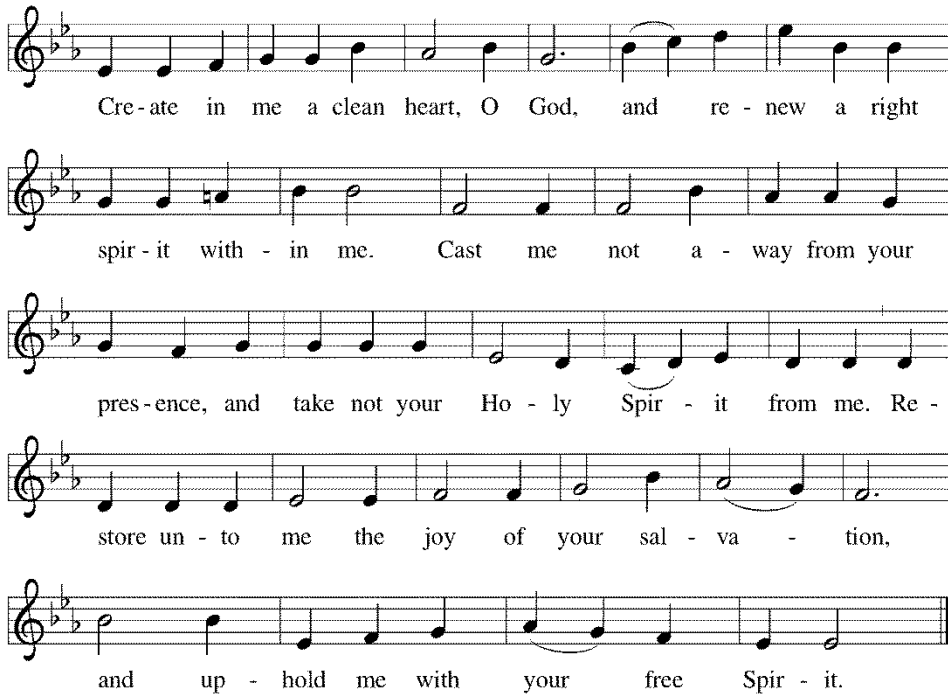
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM: *Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain.* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* All Stand & Sing



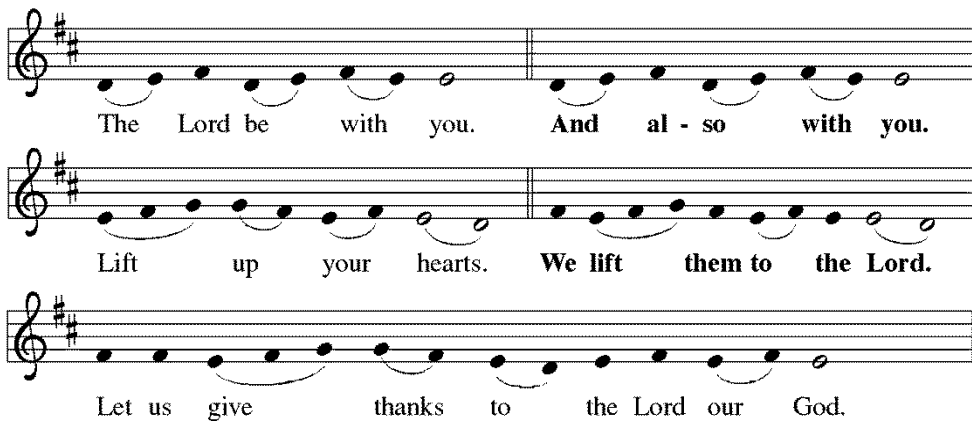
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

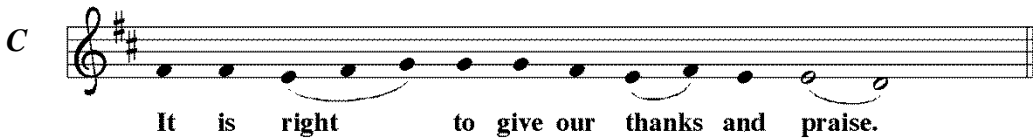
DIALOGUE

Assistant

Congregation



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
A Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

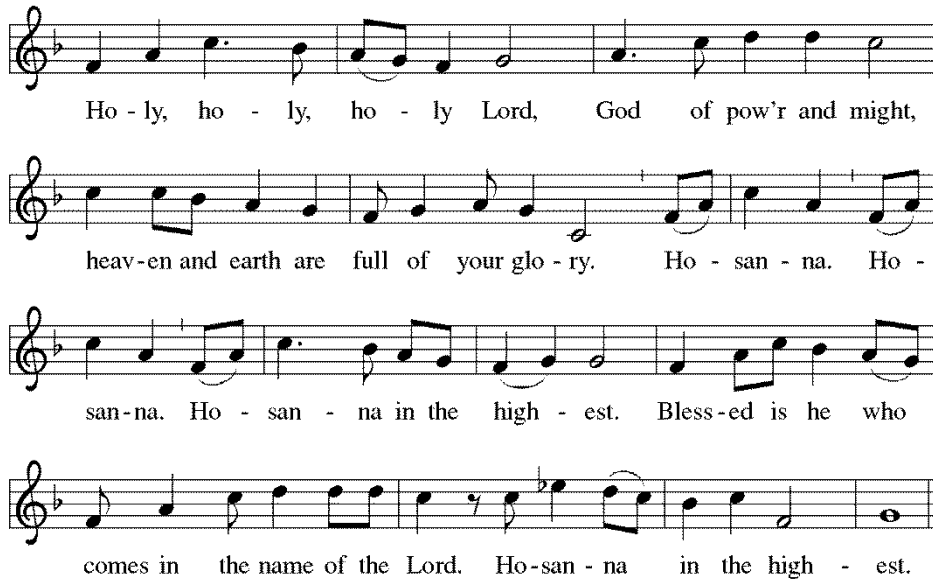


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

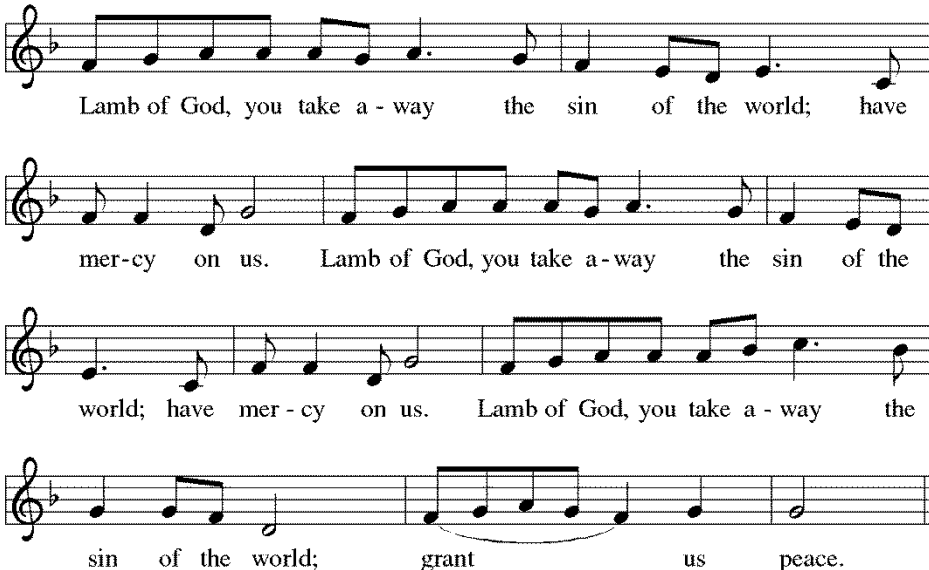
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table where Christ comes to make a home in you.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.



COMMUNION

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:

Blest Be the God of Israel All Sing



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Come, Thou Long expected Jesus All Sing



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise: tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry - one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C God of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this

foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbor with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Fling Wide the Door* All Stand & Sing



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song, for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Bring good news to the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of 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 located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.



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 form on line at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Shelia & Tim Kelly in honor of Madison’s birthday; and by Paul & Tracey Nault, Caroline & Ashton in honor of Aaron’s 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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, November 24, 2013:

Attendance: 155

Budget Report

November 24, 2013

Current Offering Received 11/17/13	\$ 2,743.50
Budget Expenses, Month to date	\$13,805.69
Offering – Month to Date	\$16,411.50

The Current Offering Received for the year through November 24, 2013 is \$20,271.47 more than Holy Comforter’s expenses through that date.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr., Sandra Cline

ACOLYTES: Claire Mitchell
Garrett Fox

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain

Courtndy Gatlin

Tracey Nault

Stephanie Hinson

CRUCIFERS: Hannah Carnes
Noah Rogers

GREETERS: Need Volunteer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:
Need Volunteers for December

TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

EUCHARISTS PRESENTERS:
Myra & Bill Hollar

USHERS: Denise Wiegand
+ Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, December 1

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir
10:30 am The Service with Infant Baptism
And Holy Communion
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Monday, December 2

11:00 am ***Morning Circle***
Meet at home of Myra Hollar
Potluck Christmas Lunch

Tuesday, December 3

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon



Saturday, December 7

9 am-Noon ***Drop-In Brunch***
Beth's Home

7:00 pm ***Staying Connected***
Fellowship Hall



Make ornament (\$5 cost)
Gift Exchange (\$10 limit)

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: December 1-7

Today, December 1 Madison Kelly
December 3 Brenda Jenkins

December 5 Aaron Nault
December 6 Rhonda Tucker



Sunday School Attendance November 24, 2013

	Children	Adults
Nursery	0	3
Pre-K	3	1
God's Eden	9	1
Youth	0	1
Seekers		6
Adults		12
Totals:	12	24





We welcome, via infant baptism, **William James Milton**
to our family at Holy Comforter.



S.O.C.K.S. Angel Tree

All wrapped and tagged gifts are due December 6th to the SOCKS location. (Be sure the *Family #* is on your tags as well as the child's name.) **You may bring your gifts to the church before the 6th** and we will make sure they get to SOCKS. ***Thank you for your tremendous response in helping the children of our community!***

For who you are and all you do, please join me as I celebrate you!

What: Christmas Brunch Drop-In

When: Saturday, December 7

9am — Noon

Where: Beth Brittain 108 Eagle Road

Belmont, NC 28012

Questions & regrets only 704-956-1203

**Blessings of wholeness and peace
to you this Christmas Season.**



SAVE THE DATE: Women of the church are invited to an ***Epiphany Tea*** on Saturday, **January 4 at 3:00 pm** in the church fellowship hall. Refreshments provided. Please bring a few holiday pictures and we will complete a scrapbook page!



The 2014 Flower Chart is Now Available in the Narthex.

Please print your name at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 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.

“Advent: A Season to Slow Down & Wait!” + 12/1/13 + Advent 1

Delicious Advent Dishes – take a taste of these:

- ✓ *“There’s a day coming ... come, let’s live in the light of God”*
(Isaiah 2:1, 5 from *The Message*)
- ✓ Jesus: *“Keep watch! Be ready!”* (Matthew 24)
- ✓ *“But make sure that you don’t get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing!”*
(Romans 13:11 from *The Message*)

As you stroll through your Advent journey ...

- Step Back
- Be Still
- Have Fun

Action steps – Application ...

- Cut out an “activity” or two this Advent season
- Cut back on gifts; make contributions; look at alternative ways to celebrate
- Love those “EGR” persons in your life
- Find ways to rediscover Jesus in your life

My action steps (application) for this Advent season – how I will slow down, wait & enjoy the delightful, delicious gifts of God:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Sherry Alexander
Louise Austin
Virginia Crump
Daniel Dowd

Ferrie Hedrick
Richard Holden
Zac Hullander
Lee Ireland

Chase Lineberger
Liz Propst

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Gertrude Alexander
Kathy Beam
Dale Burris
Family of Rick Eckard
Ronnie Hagy
Brian Hedrick
Kathy Helton
Dot Hollar
Betty Fox
Claudia Frazier
Ronnie Hersey

Betty Kannapel
Laura Lanuto &
Family
Jeff Lail
Ruth Lail
Dan Martin
Sandra Nix
Butch Passailaigue
Jean Peters
Taylor Propst &
Family

Mara Rappleyea
Joel Rivera (NY)
Steve Sanford
Megan Sigler
Ramona J. Sinclair
Jimmy Surratt
Charmaine Townsend
Buck Weatherford
Beverly F. Wall
Gloria Ward



OUR SERVICEMEN

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer

Jeremy Shaver

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



Poinsettia Order Form

YOUR NAME _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

TO THE GLORY OF GOD: _____

PAID CHECK _____ PAID CASH _____

(Remember to add \$15.00 for each poinsettia ordered.)

Payment must be attached to order form.

All orders due by December 8th.

Give your form and payment to an usher or take to the church office.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

PO Box 666 216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

www.HolyC.org

John Propst, Interim Pastor - JohnCPropst@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:00pm
(Lunch break taken sometime between Noon – 1:00pm, it varies)



SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES:

- December 8:** 10:30 am Special Guests *John the Baptist & Santa Claus*
- December 15:** 10:30 am ***Hanging of the Green*** Service
- December 22:** 10:30 am ***Children's Christmas Program***
With Holy Communion
- December 24:** 1:30 pm **Children's Christmas Eve Service**
10:45 pm Prelude
11:00 pm ***Candlelight Service with Holy Communion***
- December 29:** 10:30 am Regular Service with Christmas Carols

THE CRECHE is set up this morning with a manger and a blue vigil candle. The crèche suggests the lowliness and poverty surrounding our infant Savior who for humanity's sake became poor that through His poverty, people might become rich. (II Corinthians 8:9) **THE FIGURES ADDED TO OUR CRECHE** are a **DONKEY** and a **COW**. They remind us that in God's creation, everyone and everything rejoices in the coming of God into the world. This includes the animals in the stable, for it was indeed their home.