Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter 1

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 29, 2018

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing All Stand & Sing



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

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

KYRIE Greg Byrum verses, Congregation Refrain



CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 Acts 8:26–40

A reading from the eighth chapter of Acts.

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer.

so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

A reading from the fourth chapter of 1 John.

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

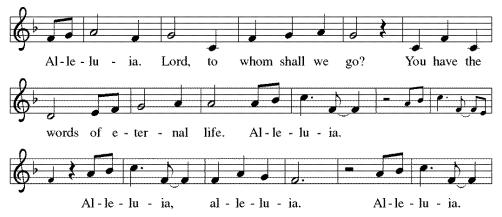
¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE





GOSPEL John 15:1-8

- P The holy gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.

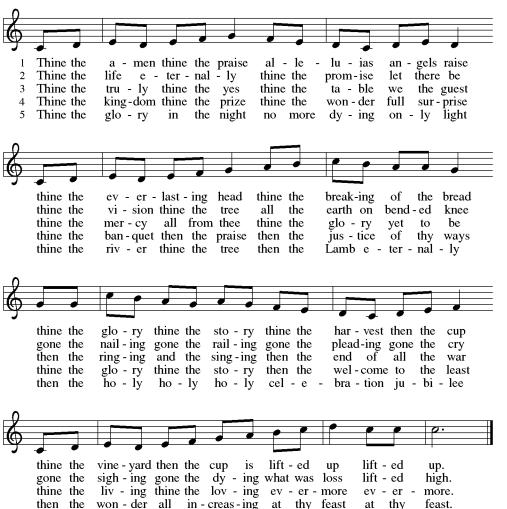


[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in

me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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





Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

splen-dor thine the bright-ness on - ly thee

thee.

on - lv

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 in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For ministries that nurture faith formation. For missionaries and Bible study leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians, campus ministers, and the newly baptized, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For spears to be beat into pruning hooks. For harsh words to be reformed into loving speech. For bombs and sniper attacks to cease. For justice and peace in every land, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities. For all the sick (*especially*), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression. For all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia. For all who suffer in silence and all who suffer alone, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for all the mystics and theologians who live eternally with you and all those we mourn. For the kingdom on earth to be as it is in heaven, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

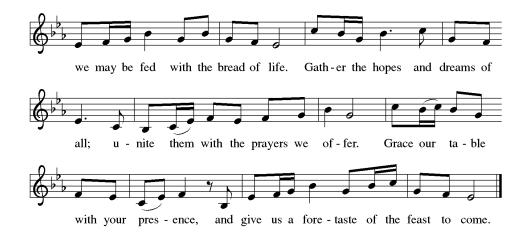
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful All Stand & Sing





OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

DIALOGUE

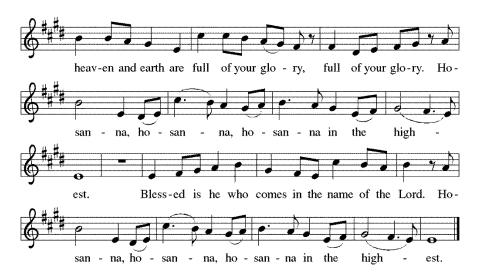
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

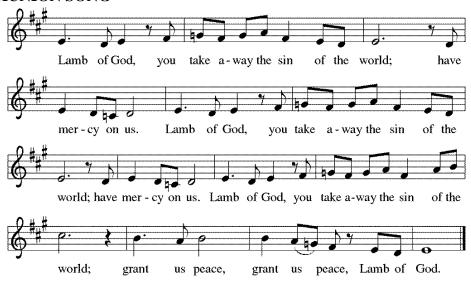
LORD'S PRAYER

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 Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!
- C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



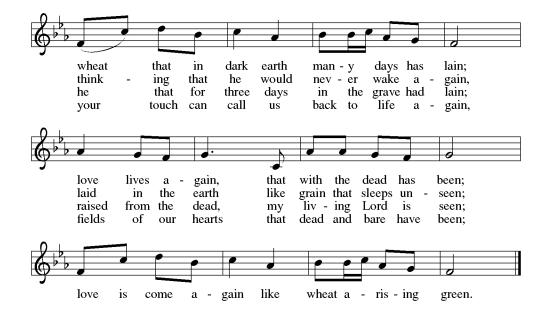


COMMUNION

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: Now the Green Blade Rises All Sing



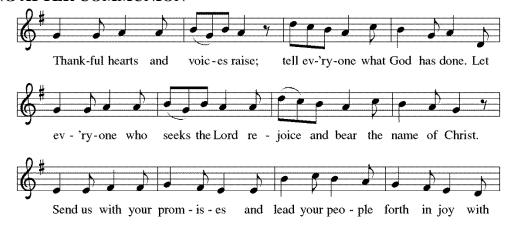


Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
Text from Oxford Book of Carols, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION





PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

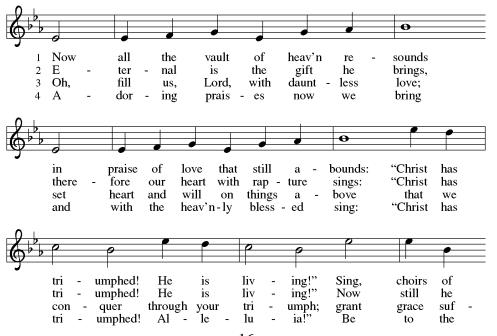
C Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

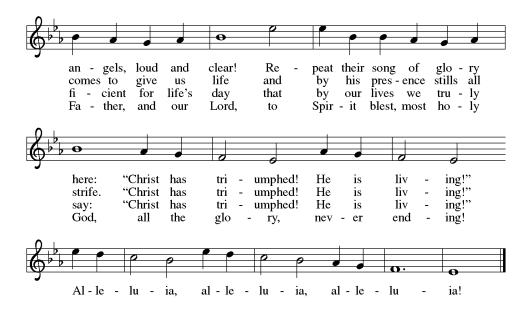
BLESSING

P May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds All Stand & Sing





Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- A Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- A You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.
- C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under One.License #A-724639

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Fifth Sunday of Easter. 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 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.

Nurseries **Available**

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 Debbie Mendez in honor of our music program participants.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, April 22, 2018:

Attendance: 122

Budget Report	<u> April 22, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 6,403.00	\$ 89,634.03
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$ 84,177.76
Offering less Expenses	\$ 851.83	\$ 5,456.27
Expected Expenses		\$ 89,611.79
Offering less Expected Expenses		\$ 22.24

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye GREETER: Debbie Mendez

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: TELLERS: Fran Holland

Volunteers John Koehler

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

Charles Mauney, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Donna Bean + Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, April 29

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Noisy Offering collection

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

7:15 pm Chamber Choir

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Melissa Bocchino

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

Brandy Milton

USHERS: Volunteers

CANTOR: Greg Byrum

Tuesday, May 1

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, May 2

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Thursday, May 3

7:00 pm HolyC Men's Group

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: April 29-May 5

April 30 Deborah Williams

May 1 Katie Kessen

Krystyna Sarrazin

May 2 Lucy Bocchino

May 3 Erin Cassel

May 4 Dariel Rogers

May 5 Tom Bocchino



The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry



Applications for the 2018-2019 academic year are now available in the church office or via email at holycomforter@gmail.com. Include *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. The office manager will send you an application that you can complete. The deadline for your *completed* application, transcript, and typed essay is April 30. Any applications received after that date will not be considered.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship was established as an endowment by Mrs. Lineberger to the congregation to reinforce students of the church in their learning and in the accomplishment of an undergraduate or graduate degree. Her hope was that this bequest would help improve their lives, and in turn, serve and enrich the lives of others. Modest scholarships will be awarded to students of the congregation from the fund.

Authorized by the Holy Comforter Church Council, the Scholarship Ministry accepts applications from candidates who have been communing and contributing members of the church for at least one year. The annual deadline is the last Sunday in April and the awards are announced in May or early June.

The amount of the award depends on the following:

- Number of students applying for, and receiving, an award
- Total amount in the fund
- Recent fund performance

Other donations to this fund can be made as memorials or tributes to friends and family on their special occasions. Please make checks payable to *Holy Comforter* and write *Lineberger Scholarship Ministry* on the memo line to ensure your gift is credited appropriately.

As the fund grows, we will be able to give more help to students.

Thank You, The Scholarship Ministry



Agape Day Camp will be held July 16th-20th For grades entering 1st - 8th



Registration forms are available from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 32 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.



VBS Registration Coming Soon... Dates of VBS are July 29-August 2

Volunteers needed to teach, set up, cleanup, and collect supplies.

Contact Beka at rforst@holyc.org to volunteer.

BCO April Items of the Month

Jelly

Saltines

Pasta Noodles











The **National Youth Gathering, June 27-July 1**, is exactly what it sounds like, 30,000 + youth will gather in Houston.

We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.

There are 59 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!

For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.



In the coming months you will be introduced to one of our seven travelers to Houston. Below, meet Bella Ince.

Hi, my name is Bella Ince and I am 14 years old. I am in 8th grade at Mt. Holly middle school. My hobbies include singing, playing volleyball, and baking. I am excited to go to Houston to serve God in as many ways as possible. I am also eager to make lifelong friendships with people who have the same belief. I am currently an active participant in *HCY* and in confirmation and I am excited to see how Houston will help us grow in faith.





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Ardean Ewing Family
Becke Featherstone
Faye Heller & Family
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Shelia Kelly & Family
Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Pat Roberson

Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Jack Tench Beverly Reynolds Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham Amy Beale Blythe Doug Brewer Karen de la Vega Carol Fox Larry "Poss" Garrett Brandi Hager
Beverly Lineberger
Jennifer Lineberger
Family & Friends of
John McDermid
Clarence McLain

Anne Murdy Tommy Smith Brody Thornburg Dennis Yates

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



Words of Sympathy and Hope Are offered to Shelia Kelly & Family on the death of her sister, Norma Daugherty



Words of Sympathy and Hope Are offered to Faye Heller & Family on the death of her sister, Vivian Lineberger

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: mkearney@holyc.org Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager