

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 29, 2019

## The First Sunday after Christmas Day



### GATHERING/WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Sweet Little Jesus Boy* . . . . . Solo

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

A The angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord”

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

A Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**C Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

A Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**C Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

A The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**C Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

A With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

In ✠ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Angels, From The Realms of Glory*. . . . . LBW 50

### **GREETING**

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A Let us pray.

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**“For unto you is born a *Savior*, who is Christ, the Lord”**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 12:2-6

A reading from the twelfth chapter of Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Lesson Response:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)*. . . . . LBW 45

**Lesson:** Matthew 1:18-21

A reading from the first Chapter of the Gospel of Matthew.

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Carol:** *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*. . . . . All Sing

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and includes lyrics. The melody is in G major, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is common time (C). The score consists of three systems of music. The first system has four staves, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The second system has two staves, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The third system has two staves, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The lyrics are as follows:

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, *Alte catholische Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## “For unto you is born a Savior, who is *Christ*, the Lord”

**Lesson:** Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

A reading from the sixty-first chapter of Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
 because the Lord has anointed me;  
 he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
 to bind up the brokenhearted,  
 to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
 and release to the prisoners;
- <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
 and the day of vengeance of our God;  
 to comfort all who mourn;
- <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
 to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
 the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Lesson Response:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only).* . . . . . LBW 45

**Lesson:** John 1:19-23, 29-34

A reading from the first chapter of the Gospel of John.

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

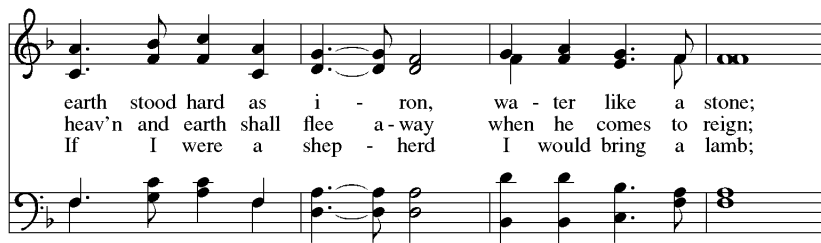
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Carol: In The Bleak Midwinter.** . . . . .All Sing



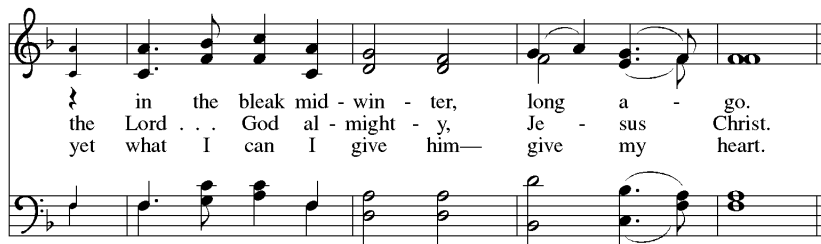
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

**“For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the *Lord*”**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from the sixth chapter of Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Lesson Response:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)*. . . . .LBW 45

**Lesson:** Luke 1:26-35

A reading from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**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**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Praise is on our lips and in our hearts, Holy One, for the gracious deeds and acts that you have bestowed upon your church. Give to your whole church open hearts that we might work together to share your good news in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, Creator of all, for you have created a rich diversity of nature and creatures: sun, moon, stars, mountains and all hills, oceans and rivers. Sustain all that you made and keep us faithful in our care for creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We bless you, Ruler of all, for the communities and nations of which we are a part. Gather into your arms the many peoples of the world and grant humility to all leaders, so



that all may find blessing and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O Holy One, you overcame death and freed us from all fear. Give courage to all who are afraid and comfort to all who suffer in any way, especially those we name before you, on our lips or in our hearts. Give patience and compassion to those who provide care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you care for your children in any danger. Grant courage to our congregation, that we are present with children who need our love and protection, with parents who grieve the loss of children, and with those who seek safety from hurtful situations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Light of life, you claim us as your children forever. We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, serving as witnesses to your presence. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

## PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY CAROL:** *Mary Did You Know?* . . . . . Solo

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *In the Bleak Midwinter* . . . . . All Stand & Sing

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him---give my heart.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

C Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING

A May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the  
angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior,  
Christ, and Lord. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you  
now and forever.

C Amen.

**CAROL:** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* . . . . . LBW 70

## BENEDICTION

A Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2017 Augsburg 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.

**All music activities & Sunday School will resume on January 5<sup>th</sup>.**



## **Altar Flowers**

**The 2020 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.

**NOTE: ALL year-end reports from church council and committee chairs are due to the church office by January 5.** These reports will be included in the annual report distributed to the congregation at a meeting the middle of January.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2020**

If you are willing to serve as a **Greeter, Lector, Usher, Eucharist Presenter 2020** 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 in the narthex. If willing to volunteer for the whole month, then sign your name at each date for that month.

**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all our visitors on this **First Sunday of Christmas**. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP**. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given by Will Howard in honor of Church Council and Staff, and by Mark and Rebecca Yount and Alec Via in celebration of Luke's birthday.

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

**Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, December 22, 2019:**

Attendance: 143

<b><u>Budget Report</u></b>	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>(Unfavorable)</u></b>
Offering	\$ 8,795.45	\$277,863.83	(\$15,527.95)
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$291,826.65	\$ 1,565.13
Offering less Expenses	\$ 3,021.10	(\$ 13,962.82)	(\$13,926.82)

**Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 12/22/2019**

Goal: \$225,000  
Received to Date: \$225,805

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Jim Buell and Judy Caldwell

**GREETER:** Volunteer

**ACOLYTE:** Jack Bryant

**TELLERS:** Tim and Shelia Kelly

**CRUCIFER:** Volunteer

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

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)  
Katie Howard, Captain  
Dean Halvorson  
Diann Halvorson

**USHERS:** Volunteers

**SOLOIST:** Don Robinson

---

**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

**Today, Sunday, December 29**

10:10 am Church choir prep

10:30 am Lessons and Carols Worship

**Tuesday, December 31**

7:00 pm Nar Anon

---

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: December 29-January 4**

December 29 Trudy Whitener

December 29 Elizabeth Schmaltz

January 4 Jason Shoemaker



December 30 Elizabeth Tench

December 30 Luke Via



**Gratitude**

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his kindness endures forever!" With a

New Year beginning, it's time to stop and count our blessings. We have a tendency to get busy and forget to thank God and others for the blessings we receive or sometimes we just don't feel thankful because times are hard. Here are ways to be grateful, regardless of life's circumstances:

- Count the simple blessings of family, friends, health, food, shelter, electricity, freedom!
- Talk about the bright side – what was the good that happened today? Put a sign on the fridge or bulletin board with the phrase, "Today I am grateful for..." and each family member takes turns filling in the blank each day.
- Thank God even when you're not grateful – it's ok to tell God you're angry or hurt but then thank him for the good he'll bring out of that anger or hurt.
- Give thanks to God by thanking others. Rev. Billy Graham says, "God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with." By thanking others, we're thanking God.
- Lift your heart to God

Despite trials and tribulations, you can be calm, lighthearted, and joyful by becoming more aware of the blessings in your life and trusting in the goodness of God. Happy, blessed New Year to you all from your Parish Nurse and Health Ministry!

NOTE: No PEP exercise classes 12/23 or 12/30. Have a wonderful holiday and I'll see you January 6<sup>th</sup>!



## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Cynthia Buchanan  
Family of  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Becke Featherstone  
Ellen Fleming

Sarah Tench Helms  
Kay Holden  
Zac Hullander  
Ben Moose  
Sherry Perry  
Caitlan Reese

Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Beverly Reynolds  
Jerri & Mike Wesson

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Janice Barker  
Amy Beale Blythe  
Doug Brewer  
Raul de la Vega  
Nancy Dickson  
Earl Gardner  
Larry "Poss" Garrett  
Mark Glaeser  
Meredith Hovis

Mary Huggins  
Steve Leonard  
Ruth Lyerly  
Jane Marino  
Family and Friends of  
Sue Parsons Mast  
Al McCoy  
Clarence McLain

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



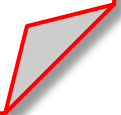
Please remember these people in your prayers.  
**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list,  
please inform the church office.**

The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).

**NOTE:** To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays.**



# Holy Doodles





**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main St. Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service**

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: [MKearney@holyc.org](mailto:MKearney@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Youth & Family Ministries

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse