

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • February 4, 2024 •

5th Sunday after Epiphany



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: From “Te Deum”

Charpentier

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our rock and refuge,

C we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God’s beloved.

C Amen

GATHERING SONG: *Praise and Thanksgiving*

All Stand & Sing



- 1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
- 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
- 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
- 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.
 Music: R. NISSAN, Gaelic lute.
 Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

GREETING

P Siblings in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Leader



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have



For the reign of God, and for



mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.
mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



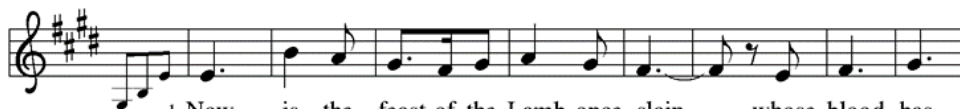
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from the fortieth chapter of Isaiah.

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and

strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A reading from First Corinthians, the ninth chapter.

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

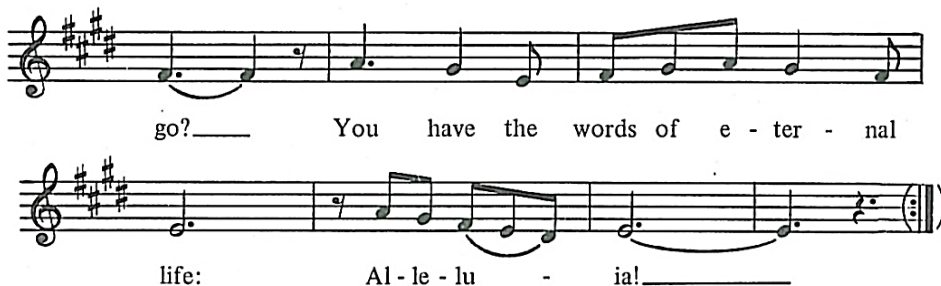
GOSPEL VERSE

All Stand & Sing

Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we



GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

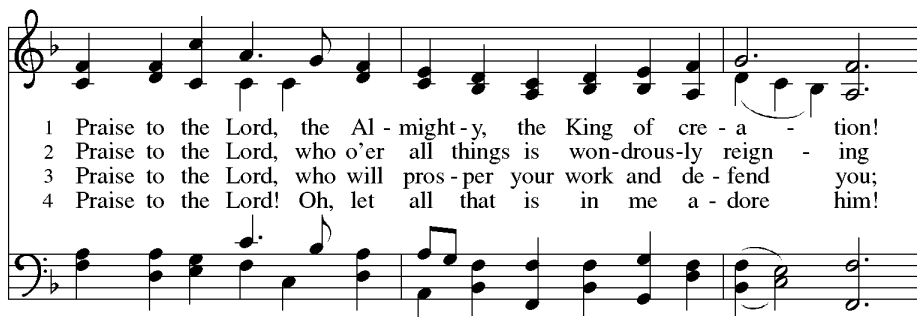
Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

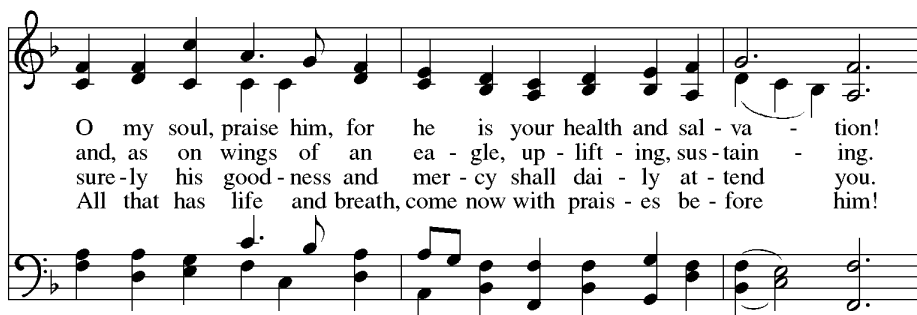
Silence is kept for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

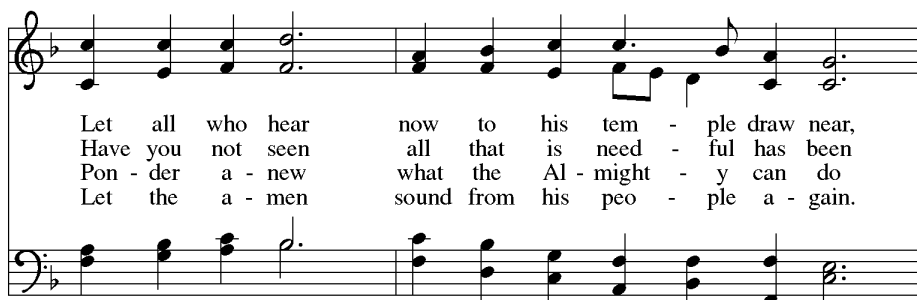
All Stand & Sing



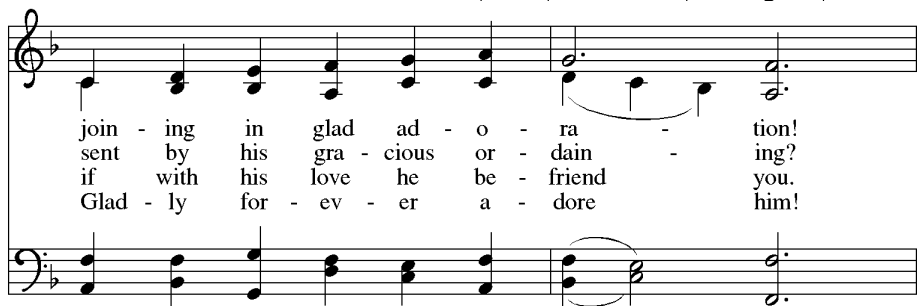
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuwerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity.

Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Create in Me

Church Choir

A QR Code is available on page 17 to give your offering online

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Arise, Your Light Has Come!

All Stand & Sing

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947.
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893.
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 740 S. Dearborn Ave., Chicago, IL 60608. www.giainc.com 0014423358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

Presider: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with
 you. *Presider:* Lift up your hearts. *Congregation:* We
 lift them to the Lord. *Presider:* Let us give
 thanks to the Lord our God. *Congregation:* It is
 right to give God thanks and praise.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P ... and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.

A - - - - - men.

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 At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may return to your pew to eat and drink, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.

LAMB OF GOD

All Sing

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world:

have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *On Eagle's Wings*

All Sing



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un - der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; thou- sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

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

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C **Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.**

Amen.

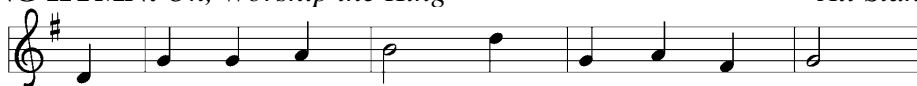
BLESSING

P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *Oh, Worship the King*

All Stand & Sing



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.

Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

SENDING

P Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Festive on "Great Redeemer"

Ashdown

*Special thanks to our Lector, William Charnock.

*Special thanks to Julia Gunter, Flutist.

Sunday, February 4th

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship Service

5:00 pm – Adult Handbells

5:00 pm – HCY

6:00 pm – Church Choir

Monday, February 5th

7:00 pm – Book Club hosted by Pastor Micah

Tuesday, February 6th

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon

Wednesday, February 7th

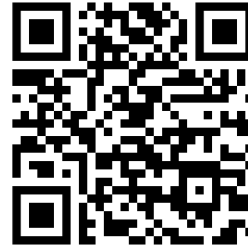
6:00 pm – Youth Handbells

7:00 pm – Chamber Choir

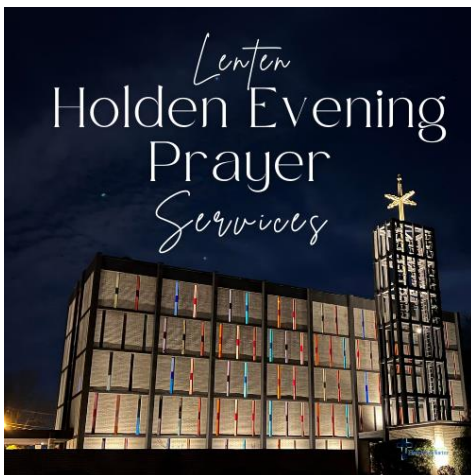
Thursday, February 8th

10:30 am – Prime Timers

Give your offering online!



If you'd like to give an offering but don't carry money with you, simply scan the QR code above and you'll be able to give through an online form.



Join us for our Lenten “Holden Evening Prayer” Dinner and Worship on Wednesdays in Lent from February 21-March 20. Dinner is at 6 pm, and worship at 6:45. It is a time for peace, worship, and fellowship amidst the busyness of life.

Meet Our Youth!



Hi, I'm Elise! I'm 14 and a freshman at South Point High School. In my free time I enjoy figure skating, theater, swim team, chorus, and HCY. I'm active in HCY, confirmation, and help with worship by bring up the elements. Last summer I attended the Dwelling for the first time, and loved learning about homelessness and bonding with our church. I am very excited to be attending both the Dwelling trip and the Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer! I can't wait to meet new people and try new things.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483
holycomforter@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: mkearney@holyc.org

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Chelsea Spicer, Office Manager



"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give**