

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

NALC

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church 704-782-8483 Parish Hall 704-795-0445
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The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

*Second Sunday Of Advent
December 6, 2020*

PRELUDE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

50

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry; Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light.
Seek the great de - sire of na - tions, You have seen his na - tal star.
Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

*APOSTOLIC 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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. **By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

FIRST READING: 2 Peter 3: 8-18 (ESV)

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a

new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Here ends the reading.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MARK 1: 1-8 (ESV)**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*HOLY COMMUNION

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN (TURN THE PAGE)

*BENEDICTION

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Kenly Marie Cox and Jubal Nathaniel Strube yesterday, December 5, at Cross of Christ by Richard and Jodie Strube. We are truly blessed to have Kenly as our daughter. Thanks be to God!

The church Christmas Tree has been provided in Honor of Jubal and Kenly's wedding and in Honor and Memory of our Campbell, Cox and Bean family member's by Leonard, Belinda and Caleb Campbell.

Council will meet immediately following the 11AM service **today**.

CELEBRATE THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS UNDER THE STARS

We invite you to an outdoor showing of multiple Cross of Christ Christmas musicals from years gone by, performed by the young people of our church and community. Bring a lawn chair and blanket or sit in your car while you keep warm with coffee, hot chocolate and cookies.

TODAY at 5:30 pm in Parish Hall Parking Lot

Next Sunday, **Dec. 13, is the last Sunday to donate new toys to Toys for Tots.** Thank you for your generosity.

We will be displaying Poinsettias in the church sanctuary on **Sunday, December 20th.** If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church in memory or in honor of a loved one please let Meredith Harrison know. **Orders are due by December 13th.** The cost this is \$9.00 each. Please place your money in the church offering plate or mail it to the church with the amount, number and labeled poinsettias money on the envelope. Call or email your number and announcement to Meredith by December 13th. Meredith.harrison@stanlycountyschools.org or Mariannaema@yahoo.com

Week 2: Preparation (or waiting or prophecy)

Isaiah 40:3-5:

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’”

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.



December 6, 2020

A little reminder about our prayer list.

We ask that you always have an individual's permission before requesting their name be added to our Prayer List. Contact Pastor Allison or Prayer List Coordinator Belinda Campbell to request additions or changes.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people... 1Timothy 2:1

In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ

Family of Rina Moss

Family of Mildred Watson

Tim Aldridge; Kay Barbee; Scott Barringer; Megan Blackburn;

Phyllis Campbell (Knee surgery on 1/5/2021); John Faggart; Tom Harkins;

Frances Kanipe (Big Elm Nursing Home – Therapy for Stroke recovery);

Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; Frances Pless; Marie Pless;

John Trull (Carotid artery surgery 12/3; Abdominal Aneurysm surgery in 2021);

Dot Weast

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison; Will Drye

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Frances Shoe

Sherry Baker; Lawrence Campbell (Baptist Hospital – Pneumonia);

Amanda, Madison and Addie Drye (self-quarantined due to COVID exposure);

Mark Drye (COVID diagnosis); Kelly Caudle; Steve & Angie Dixon;

Morgan Eudy; JB Faggart; Jane Faggart; Ralph Furr; Dave Goff;

Tommy and Eva Harrel; Ivory Holland; Ensley Morgan; Daniel Neubacher; Kelly

Odell (Daughter of Betty Archer – Recovery from Hip surgery on 11/23/2020);

Diane Parker; Angie and Steve Potter (Friends of Donnie Gandy – Angie has a Brain

stem aneurysm); Derrick Shafer; Shelbie Snipes;

Gary and Betty Walter (Friends of Brian and Lisa Heintz – COVID diagnosis);

Beverly and Lewis Williams; Pat Winecoff.

General Prayer Concerns

Our nation, Our community and Our Church

Cross of Christ Shut-Ins

Sylvia Loggans (Five Oaks, Room # 129 – Cards are appreciated)

** Please remember our shut-ins with a visit, phone call, card, or email along with your prayers.

