

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

NALC

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church 704-782-8483 Parish Hall 704-795-0445
Parsonage 704-786-3643

The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

*Third Sunday Of Advent
December 13, 2020*

OUR ACCOMPANIST

MRS. RHONDA DRYE

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What Child Is This

Em D G D Em Am B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Em G D Em B Em^{sus 4} Em

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Bm G D Em Am B

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Bm G D Em B Em^{sus 4} Em

Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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. Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way.

Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST READING: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 (ESV)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Here ends the reading.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. JOHN 1: 6-8, 19-28 (ESV)**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*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

*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 Karen Barbee's birthday by her family.

Church Council has approved that members may put Christmas cards in boxes in mailroom after each service.

Orders for **Poinsettias** are **due today December 13th.**

TODAY is the **last Sunday to donate new toys to Toys for Tots.** Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is December 24, 9 PM. **Only one service.**

Newsletter Articles are due **December 27th.**

If you address or phone number has changed, please let Meredith Harrison know, so the directory can be updated.

Yearbook information is due by **January 30th** to Meredith.

The Annual Rimer Community Fire Department Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 7 pm** at the fire Department. See what's happening in YOUR department.

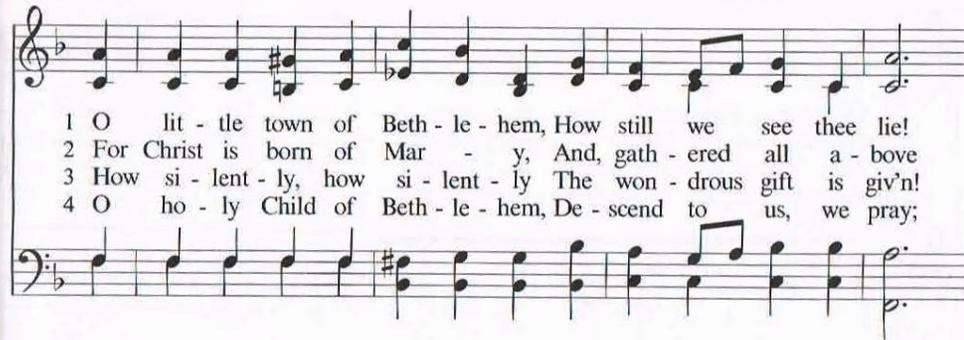
Week 3: Joy (or peace)

Matthew 2:10-11,

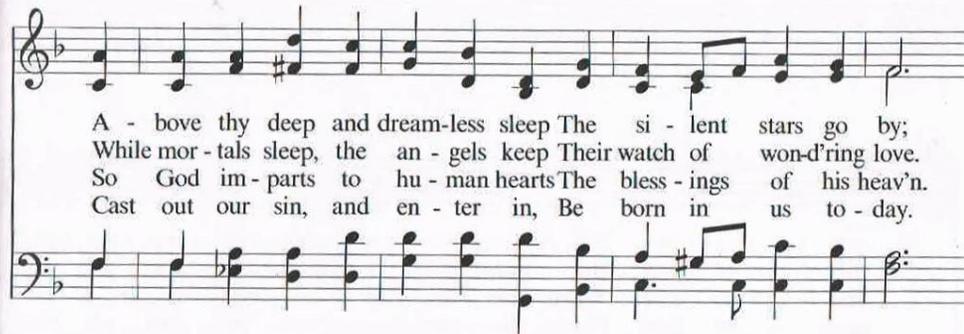
"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

O Little Town of Bethlehem

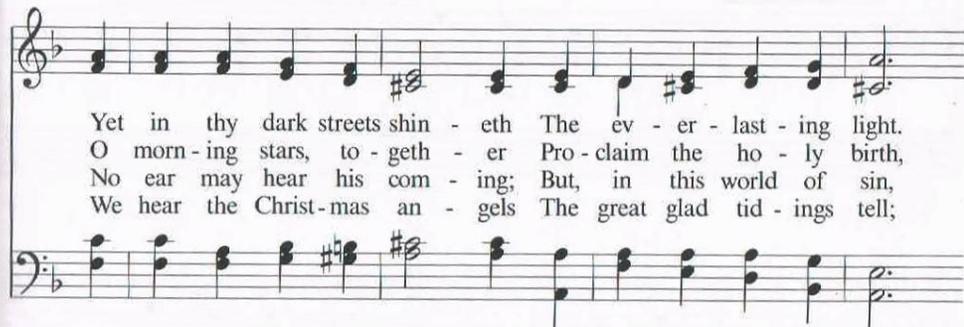
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1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; But, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king, And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
Oh, come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!



PRAY FOR . . .

December 13, 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 (Atrium Northeast – Infection in Knee operated on); Kay Barbee; Scott Barringer; Megan Blackburn; Phyllis Campbell (Knee surgery on 1/5/2021); Rhonda Drye (2 lesions (kidney and Adrenal gland) MRI being scheduled); John Faggart; Tom Harkins; Frances Kanipe (Big Elm Nursing Home – Therapy for Stroke recovery); Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; Frances Pless; Marie Pless; John Trull (Recovering from Carotid artery surgery on 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 (Home recovering);

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.**

