

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 †

*Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021*

OUR ACCOMPANIST

MRS. YVONNE YOST

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

* OPENING HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

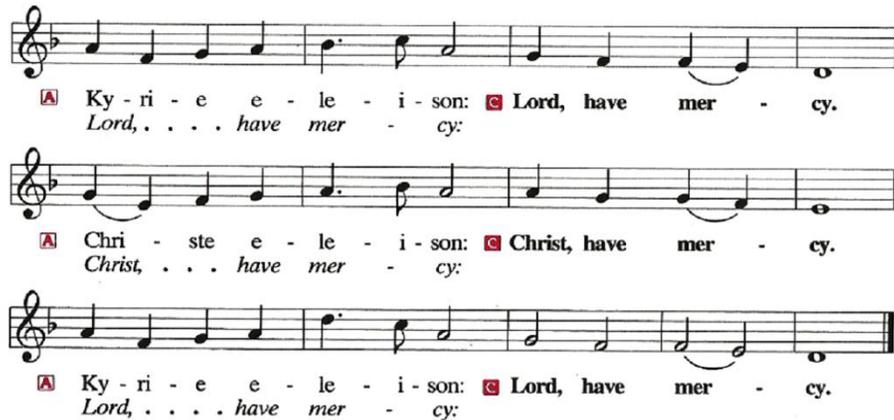
LBW 45

*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.

*KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WOV 630

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (VERSE 1-2)

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3: 1-7 (ESV)

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵"Then I

will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. ⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 66: 1-12

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

² **sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!**

³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

⁴ **All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."**

⁵ Come and see what God has done:

he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

⁶ **He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him,**

⁷ who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

⁸ **Bless our God, O peoples;**

let the sound of his praise be heard,

⁹ who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

¹⁰ **For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.**

¹¹ You brought us into the net;

you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

¹² **you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1: 2-11 (ESV)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 3: 1-20 (ESV)**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do."¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reprovved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFAE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN *“Angels From The Realms Of Glory”* LBW 50

*NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE OFFERTORY

Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,
**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-- ourselves,
our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them
for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
 In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
 that all those who believe in him
 should not perish, but have eternal life.
 We give thanks to you
 for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
 Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
 that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
 as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE 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**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

WOV 740 & 709

***BLESSING**

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

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Thank the Lord"

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,
and lead us forth in joy with shouts
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

*SENDING HYMN "On Jordan's Banks The Baptist's Cry" LBW 36

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

(* Please stand as you are able)

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Advent Week 2 - Prayer for Peace

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our stockings. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, "Be afraid!" We need your peace, Jesus.

We confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the bills will be paid, when the terror will stop, when rest will come. Will it ever? Is the message still true? In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Advent, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. We not only need Your peace and joy; Lord, we crave it. You've promised rest for the weary, victory for the battle-scarred, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted—not just at Advent, but every day of every year. Your name is still called "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The Mighty God," "The Everlasting Father," and "The Prince of Peace." We know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You. You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. You are no longer a babe in the manger. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always. Amen

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Kenly and Jubal Strube's first wedding anniversary by Jodie and Richard Strube.

Leonard and Belinda Campbell would like to gift this year's Christmas tree to the Church in memory of the people in our lives that we have lost this year - Lawrence Campbell, Joyce Campbell, Chris Horton and Ada Jo Shell.

Please join us after worship service **Next Sunday December 12th** for our **Annual Congregational Christmas Meal/Party**. Meal will be spaghetti, salad and dessert. Remembering this season of Advent and preparing our hearts for our Lord. Thanks be to God.

The **PBJ Youth** group will meet next Sunday at 3:00 PM at Meredith's house.

A-Meal-A-Month Parish Hall Fundraiser – December 18th

Our monthly fund-raising meals will be a **Country Breakfast Saturday, December 18th from 7:00AM until 11:00AM**. Come enjoy the meal and invite others to join you! Donations will go towards the Facilities Improvement Fund.

The **Outreach Committee** is sponsoring the Toys for Tots this year. The boxes will be at the back corners of sanctuary. New, unwrapped toys for all ages are needed. **Our church will collect toys thru Dec. 12**. Just think of the smiles on the children's faces this Christmas morning. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be placing poinsettias in the Church Sanctuary on **Sunday, December 19th**. If you would like to order poinsettias they are **\$9 each**. Please place your money in the offering plate marked with how many plants you are purchasing by **December 12th** and give your in honor or memory information to **Meredith Harrison**



December 5, 2021

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 Marie Pless

Kay Barbee; Kevin Blackburn; John Faggart; Harry Goodman; Candice Horton; Frances Kanipe; Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; Kristi Leonard; Katelyn Strube; Richard and Jodie Strube (Recovery from COVID); John Trull; Albert and Dot Weast (Atrium – Northeast - Recovery from COVID); John and Cathy Weast (Recovery from COVID)

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan); Will Drye

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Michael Ennis (Uncle of Dylan Ennis)
Family of Charles Garner (Uncle of Kenly Strube)
Family of Richard Hamilton (Brother of Joyce Harkins)
Bettie Bean (Mother of Barbara Seagraves & Belinda Campbell – Eye surgery recovery); Steve & Angie Dixon; Jane Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Dave Goff; Tommy and Eva Harrel; Brady Krimminger; Ensley Morgan; Diane and Steve Parker; Connie Walters; Ann Wensil (Aunt of Scotty Seagraves – Atrium Northeast for Congestive Heart Failure)

Cross of Christ Shut-Ins

Sylvia Loggans (Five Oaks, Room # 301)

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

Today December 5, 2021

Executive Board	8:30 AM
Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Holy Communion Service	10:00 AM
Church Council	11:00 AM

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM	Sunday Church School Classes
10:00 AM	Family Worship Service

Next Sunday's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Psalm 85

Philippians 4: 4-7

St. Luke 7: 18-35



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