



4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church 704-782-8483

The Rev. Marty Ramey, Interim Pastor
A NALC Congregation



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!
In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Fourth Sunday Of Advent
December 21, 2025

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

PRELUDE

OUR ACCOMPANIST MRS. YVONNE YOST

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

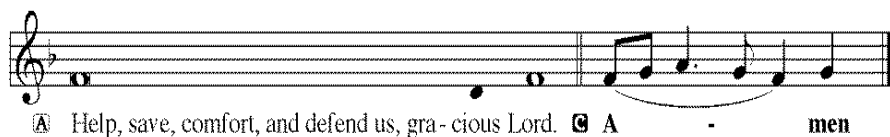
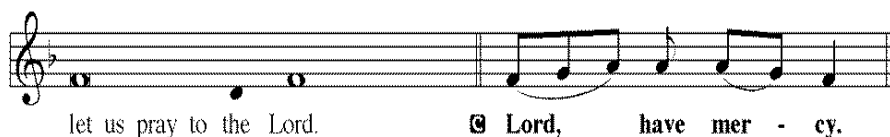
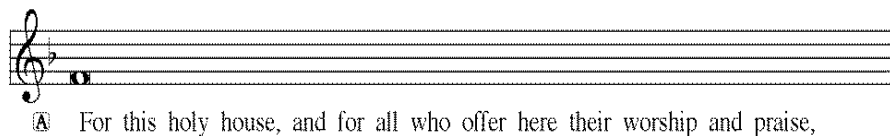
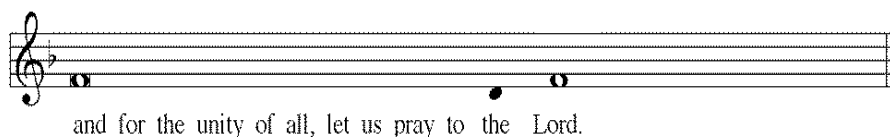
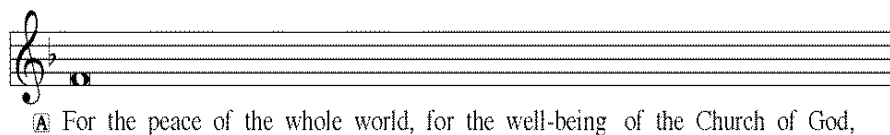
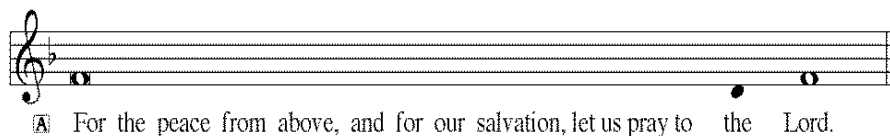
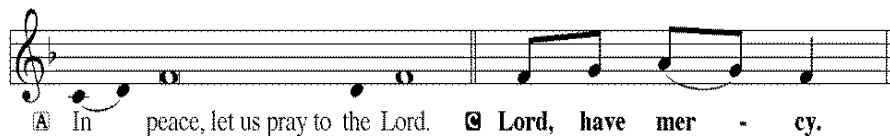
* OPENING HYMN “*The First Noel* ” LBW 56

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*KYRIE



***SALUTATION**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

WOV 630

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (vs 1-4)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7: 10-17 (ESV)

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!"

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 24: 1-10 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,

² **for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

- ³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
- ⁴ **He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**
- ⁵ He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- ⁶ **Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**
- ⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
- ⁸ **Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!**
- ⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
- ¹⁰ **Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!**

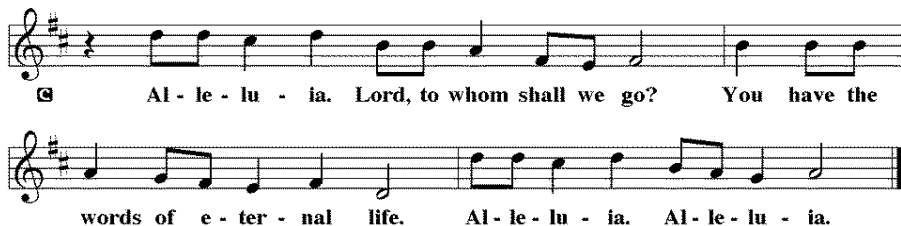
SECOND READING: Romans 1: 1-7 (ESV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David^[a] according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

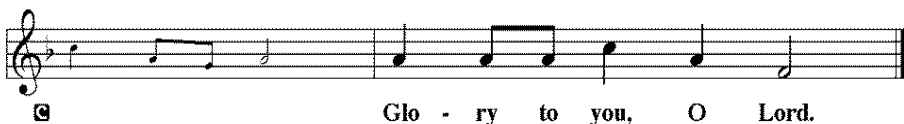
The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



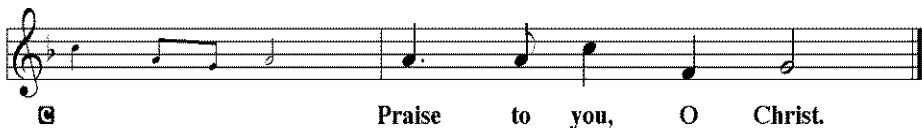
The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.



***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 1: 18-25 (ESV)**

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P: This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON “*Something Happened!* ”

Pastor Marty Ramey

*SERMON HYMN “*Away In A Manger*” LBW 67

***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**

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***THE OFFERTORY**



***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**

***BENEDICTION**

P: 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.

C: Amen

***SENDING HYMN “*Hark The Harold Angels Sing*” LBW 60**

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and honor of Karen Barbee's birthday by her family.

Have you submitted your 2026 Friends Prayer List requests? Reminder to submit anyone for the Friends section of the prayer list per the December Newsletter information as the Prayer List is doing a complete reset as of 1/1/26. **Those on the current list will not transition unless you submit your request by 12/21/25.**

Join us for Christmas caroling to our shut-ins **TODAY**. We'll meet in the church parking lot at **2:00 PM** and carpool to each home. Everyone is welcome! Contact **Ashleigh Ennis** with any questions.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is December 24th at **9 PM**.

Please see **Suzanne Bost** for all **new** and **reoccurring** parish hall rentals/events for **2026**. Thank you!

Newsletter Articles are due **TODAY** for **January 2026**.

The **2026 Flower Calendar** has been placed in the mail room. Please mark any dates that you would like for flowers. The cost is still **\$64** for both vases. If a date you would like is already taken, talk with the person who signed up and split that Sunday. **One vase is \$32.**

If you have any changes to addresses, phone numbers, or email address for the **CCLC 2025 / 2026 Annual Yearbook**, please get those changes to the Historical Comm, Rhonda Drye or Jodie Strube. Committee chairs, event leaders, group leaders please start preparing your year-end summaries. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Advent Week 4 - Prayer for Love

Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem.

All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

The greatest gift of all came that first Christmas. It wasn't wrapped in a beautiful package and set under a decorated tree. The greatest gift came wrapped in the flesh of baby Jesus and laid in the rough wood of a manger. Our perfect gift would later be rewrapped in the scars of our sin and nailed to the rugged wood of a cross on Calvary, all because of love.

Father, this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.



Poinsettias In Honor of:



Tim & Kim Aldridge by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Richard & Betty Archer by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Susan, Karen, Alexis, Taylor and Kaylee by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Larry, Sharon, and Taylor Barbee by: CSI Youth Group
Bob & Joann Barrier by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Joey and Lisa Barrier by: CSI Youth Group
Paul & Melvin Bost by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Chris and Suzanne Bost by: CSI Youth Group
Leonard and Belinda Campbell by: CSI Youth Group
Kelly Caudle by: Parish Partners Sunday School Class
Kelly & Susan Caudle by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Cayle and Tracy Drye by: CSI Youth Group
Chuck Drye by: CSI Youth Group
Robin Drye by: CSI Youth Group
Rusty & Rhonda Drye by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Sharon Duncan by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Amanda Faggart by: CSI Youth Group
Kim & Donnie Stout and Karen Faggart by: Jane Faggart
My 5 granddaughters, grandsons-in-laws and my seven great grandchildren by: Jane Faggart
Jane Faggart by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Harry & Dot Goodman by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Roy & Tamara Gray by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Roy and Tamara Gray by: CSI Youth Group
Carol Harkey by: Kelly & Susan Caudle
Tom & Joyce Harkins by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Eva Harrell by: CSI Youth Group
John and Meredith Harrison by: CSI Youth Group
Daniel and Amanda Holder by: CSI Youth Group
Roger & Linda Horton by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Kaasi Leonard by: CSI Youth Group
Our Parents by: Kelly & Susan Caudle
Wayne and Julie Peck by: CSI Youth Group
Henry & Lindsay Pless by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Pastor Ramey by: Henry & Lindsay Pless
Richard & Jodie Strube by: Larry & Sharon Barbee
Sherry Baker by: Richard & Jodie Strube

Kaleena Tripp by: CSI Youth Group

Rand & Yvonne Yost by: Kelly & Susan Caudle

Rand & Yvonne Yost by: Larry & Sharon Barbee

Yvonne Yost by: Doug, Heather, Chloe & Kensi Bell and Wayne & Jeremy Furr

Rand Yost by: Doug, Heather, Chloe & Kensi Bell and Wayne & Jeremy Furr



Poinsettias In Memory of:



The Two White Poinsettias on the stands are given in memory of JB and Johnny Faggart and in

loving memory of our (JB & Jane's) parents and siblings by Jane and Family

Jack & Odessa Archer by: Betty & Richard Archer

Sherry Baker by: Richard & Jodie Strube

Kay Barbee by: Larry & Sharon Barbee

John & Annette Deese by: Larry & Sharon Barbee

Rod Duncan by: Sharon & Family

Brenda Furr by: Larry & Sharon Barbee

Frank & Doris Kluttz by: Tim & Kim Aldridge

Peggy G. Laney by: Richard & Jodie Strube

Carl & Marie Pless by: Larry & Sharon Barbee

Carl & Marie Pless by: Betty & Richard Archer

George & Frances Pless by: Larry & Sharon Barbee

Everette & Marie Stoner by: Larry & Sharon Barbee

Peggy B. Strube by: Richard & Jodie Strube

In Honor & In Memory of:

In Honor of Evelyn Aldridge and In Memory of William Aldridge by: Tim & Kim Aldridge

In Memory of all our loved ones and in Honor of Jane Faggart by: Karen & Amanda Faggart

Given in Memory of our loved ones that have passed and in Honor of our Family and Friends

by: Caden, Hadley & Hazel Pless



December 21, 2025

We ask that you always have an individual's permission before requesting their name be added to our Prayer List. Please send prayer list request additions or changes to prayercccl@gmail.com by Tuesday 5PM.

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

Walker Drye; Roy Gray; Dorothy Goodman; Harry Goodman;
Norman Goodman; Amy Preston; John Trull; Linda Trull.

Call Process prayer requests: 1) Cross of Christ Church; 2) Call Committee; 3) Prospective pastors see our profile/video and consider a call here.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Vicky Floyd (Friend of Linda Horton)
J.D. Almond; Pastor Charles Barrier; Kathryn Blick; Deena Bost;
Pastor Gene Bost; Myra Bost; LeaAnn Buckwell;
Pastor Randall Cauble; Pastor Tom Corbell; Luke Cranford; Ed Duncan;
April Funderburke; David Gandy; Marty Gandy; David Goforth;
Lee Goforth; Barbara Hamilton; Annette Heller; Candice Horton;
Greg Houston; Jimmy Howard; Melissa Krumbien; Gerry Litzinger;
Susie Moore; Karen Morgan; Hank Morris; Daniel Pless; Lettie Reid;
Blake Rogers; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith; Susan Starling;
Veronica Williams; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

Rimer Fire Department

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

Today December 21, 2025

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

This Week

MON: 7 – 8:30 PM Soldiers of Christ Practice

WED: 9 PM Christmas Eve Communion
Candlelight Service

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 63: 7-14

Psalms 111: 1-10

Galatians 4: 4-7

St. Matthew 2: 13-23

www.crossofchristlutheranchurch.org
<http://www.facebook.com/CrossofChristLutheranChurchConcord>
ClericalTeam@Gmail.com
prayerccle@gmail.com