



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025

Church 704-782-8483 Parish Hall 704-795-0445

Parsonage 704-786-3643

The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor

A NALC Congregation



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Installation of 2023 Church Council

*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:

*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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WOV 630

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (vs 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. ² But 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. ³ He 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.^[a] ⁴ Then 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)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And 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. ⁷ It 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. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled 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, ² during the high priesthood of Annas

and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁴ As 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.’⁵ Every 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,⁶ and 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?”⁸ Bear 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.⁹ Even 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?”¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics^[b] 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?”¹³ And 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,¹⁶ John 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.¹⁷ His 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.¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done,²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

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

*SERMON HYMN *“On Jordan’s Banks The Baptist Cry”* LBW 36

*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

RECEIVING 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 HOLY 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 HYMN

WOV 740 & 709

*POST COMMUNION 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

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

*SENDING HYMN "Angels From The Realms Of Glory" LBW 50

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

(* Please stand as you are able)

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

Council Meeting today after service.

The Annual Congregational Christmas Party TODAY after the worship service.

Next Sunday is last day for Toys for Tots. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be placing poinsettias in the Church Sanctuary on **Sunday, December 25th**. 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 11th** and give your in honor or memory information to **Meredith Harrison**.

The **2023 Altar flower calendar** has been placed in the mailroom. Please add the person's name and in memory or honor of and reason ei: birthday, anniversary, etc.

THE LITTLE DRUMMER DUDE

Planned Practice Schedule

Sunday, December 4	4:00 – 5:30
Wednesday, December 7	6:00 – 7:30
Sunday, December 11	4:00 – 5:30
Wednesday, December 14	6:00 – 7:30
Thursday, December 15	6:00 – 8:00 (DRESS REHEARSAL)
Saturday, December 17	7:00 (PERFORMANCE #1)
Sunday, December 18	7:00 (PERFORMANCE #2)



December 4, 2022

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 Clyde Drye, Sr

Coy Edgison; John Faggart; Joyce Harkins; Candice Horton; Linda Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Richard Strube; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast; John Weast (Knee replacement surgery scheduled for 12/8); Bob Yost

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Terry Earnhardt (Friend of Susan Caudle)

Family of Theodore Thomas Hall (Teresa Allison's Uncle)

Family of Dianne Parker

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; Bettie Bean; Ronnie Boger; Emmalyn Bozeman (Granddaughter of a friend of the Sveko family – Surgery for Necrotizing Pneumonia on 11/29/2022, currently in the ICU); LeaAnne Buckwell; Mary Cox; Steve & Angie Dixon; Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart (Brain cancer surgery/stroke recovery); Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Brady Krimming; Mary Kunze; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Doris McCarn; Gabby Monty; Ensley Morgan; Steve Parker; Ronnie Procter; Jeff Sampson; Susan Starling; Connie Walters; Vickey Belk Young

General Prayer Concerns

The People of Ukraine

All were impacted by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole

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

Today – December 4, 2022

Executive Meeting	8:30 AM
Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Holy Communion Service	10:00 AM
Council Meeting	11:00 AM
Congregation Christmas Party	After Service
Play Practice	4–5:30 PM

This Week

WED 6-7:30 PM Play Practice

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM Sunday Church School Classes
10:00 AM Family Worship Service
4-5:30 PM Play Practice

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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