



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025

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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 †

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

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

“What Child Is This”

LBW 40

*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. 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 you 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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WOV 630

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

(vs 1-3)

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3: 14-20 (ESV)

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 85

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**² You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**

³ You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

**⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!**

⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**⁶ Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

**⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

**¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**¹² Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³ Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4: 4-7 (ESV)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 7: 18-35 (ESV)

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed

shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." ²⁹ (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰ but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) ³¹ "To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep." ³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' ³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

This is Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN

"Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem"

LBW 41

*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



bles - sing. 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.

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*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**

*SENDING HYMN *"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"* **LBW 54**

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (*Please stand as you are able*)

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Advent Week 3 - Prayer for Joy

This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

Father, you offer that same joy to us now if we know you and recognize Jesus as our Savior and Lord. You gave us a reason to celebrate when you gave us the unspeakable gift of Jesus Christ. You came to dwell among us. You went to Calvary's cross for us. You overcame death and rose from the dead for us. You forgive our sins and give us eternal life when we believe in you.

Our joy doesn't come from our jobs, our family, our relationships, our finances, or our success. Our joy doesn't come from what we have on earth or who we are with. Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that you gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, King Jesus. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.



Join us on a journey with Abel, Persia's Traveling Band and the Three Wise Men as they search for the Christ Child and learn how God can do amazing things through every one of us, even if we are just "a little dude."

Presented by the children, young adults and "young at heart" adults of
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 pm

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and honor of the marriage of Meagan Renea Blackburn and Thomas Jarod Youngblood, yesterday December 11, at Cross of Christ by Kevin and Stephanie Blackburn. Thanks be to God!

Last day to give to Toys for Tots this year. Thank you for your generosity.

Last day to order poinsettias for **Sunday, December 25th**. Please place your money in the offering plate marked with how many plants you are purchasing by **TODAY** and give your in honor or memory information to **Meredith Harrison**.

The **PBNJ** and **CSI** groups will be going to the Coltrane Life Center on **December 29th at 10:30** to play Bingo. If you are a youth member, please let Kristi or Meredith know if you plan to attend. We also need a couple items for Bingo: sugar free candy, gloves and toboggans (for men); and word searches. If you would like to donate any items please place them in box in mailroom by the 25th. Thank you in advance.

On behalf of the congregation I would like to thank Billie Barrier and her family for the very generous monetary gift in memory of her husband Darrell. The funds were given in order to cover the entire cost of the new sign and the electrical installation. Your gift is most appreciated! Thank you!

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 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 11, 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; Gail Leonard (Surgery scheduled for 12/19/2022);
John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast;
John Weast (Knee replacement surgery on 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; 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 (Recovery from Brain cancer surgery and a stroke);

Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Brady Krimminger;

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

Praise List:

Richard Strube – Thank you for the thoughts and prayers. The prostate procedure will be in January.

Bettie Bean – Thoughts and prayers were appreciated during the diagnosis of knee concern. Knee replacement surgery is on 1/31/2023.

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

Today – December 11, 2022

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

This Week

WED:	6-7:30 PM	Play Practice
THURS:	6-8:00 PM	Play Dress Rehearsal
SAT:	7:00 PM	“Little Drummer Dude” Performance #1

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM	Sunday Church School Classes
10:00 AM	Family Worship Service
7:00 PM	“Little Drummer Dude” Performance #2

Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 3: 1-7
Psalm 66: 1-12
St Luke 3: 1-20

