

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 12, 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

***"Angels We Have Heard On High"* LBW 71**

*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.

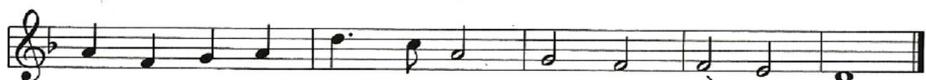
*KYRIE



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 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

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)

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The 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. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The 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. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**⁸Let 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.**

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

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

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

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

**¹³Righteousness 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? ²⁵What 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. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and

more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” ²⁸I 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, ³⁰but 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? ³²They 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.” ³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴The 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!’ ³⁵Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

This is Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN

“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”

LBW 54

*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

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - 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.

*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

*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 "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" LBW 41

*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 the Larry Barbee family.

Please join us after worship service **TODAY** 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.

Today is the last day for donating to Toys for Tots. Thank you so much for thinking of others.

PBnJ Youth meet today at 3:30 PM at Meredith's house.

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 Newsletter Articles are due **next Sunday**.

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 **2022 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.



December 12, 2021

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; 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)
Bettie Bean; Steve & Angie Dixon; Jane Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Dave Goff; Jerri Green (Friend of Earlene Cox – Heart Catheterization and Cancer Treatment); Tommy and Eva Harrel; Brady Krimminger; Ensley Morgan; Diane and Steve Parker; Connie Walters; Ann Wensil

General Prayer Concerns

Those impacted by COVID

Cross of Christ Shut-In

Sylvia Loggans (Five Oaks, Room # 301)

Praise List

· Kristi Leonard – Prayers were appreciated during her recovery.

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

Today December 12, 2021

Sunday Church School 9:00 AM
Family Worship Service 10:00 AM
Congregation Meal/Party 11:00 AM

This Week

Sat: 7-11 AM Breakfast Fundraiser

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Micah 5: 2-5a
Psalm 80: 1-7
Hebrews 10: 5-10
St Luke 1: 39-56