

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 †

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 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

"The First Noel"

LBW 56

*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 your power, O Lord, and come.

Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

WOV 630

(vs 1-4)

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: MICAH 5: 2-5A (ESV)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 80: 1-7

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

**² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might**

and come to save us!

³ Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

⁴ O LORD God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**⁶ You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10: 5-10 (ESV)

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 1: 39-56 (ESV)

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

This is Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN

"What Child Is This"

LBW 40

*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
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.

*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 Come, All Ye Faithful" LBW 45

*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 by the congregation.

Join us for a **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service Friday December 24th at 9PM.**

Christmas Sunday, December 26, 10:00AM we will celebrate a worship service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion.

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.

The **Outreach Committee** and Jubal would like to thank you for your generous donations to Toys for Tots this year. We delivered **134 toys** on Monday to be distributed.



In Memory of:

Bill C. by: John, Karen & Amanda Faggart
Brenda Furr by: Doug, Heather, Chloe & Kensington Bell & Wayne Furr Brenda Furr
by: Larry Barbee Family
Carl & Marie Pless by; Chris, Hannah, Caden & Hadley Pless
Carl & Marie Pless by: Frances Pless
Carl & Marie Pless by: Larry Barbee Family
Earl Shaver by: John, Karen & Amanda Faggart
Everette & Marie Stoner by: Doug, Heather, Chloe & Kensington Bell & Wayne Furr
Everette & Marie Stoner by: Larry Barbee Family
Eynice & Mary Thomas by: Larry Barbee Family
Geroge Pless, Sr by: Frances Pless
Geroge Pless, Sr. by: Larry Barbee Family
Henry & Elaine Caudle by: Susan & Kelly Caudle
J. B. Faggart by: John, Karen & Amanda Faggart
Jerry Huneycutt by: Chris, Hannah, Caden & Hadley Pless
John & Annette Deese by: Larry Barbee Family
Joyce Campbell by: Phyllis Cambell & Family
Lawerence Campbell by: Phyllis Campbell & Family
Mary (Kitty) Shaver by: John Karen & Amanda Faggart
Peggy B. Strube by: Richard & Jodie Strube
Peggy G. Laney by: Richard & Jodie Strube
In Memory Albert Weast & In Honor of Dot Weast by: Frances Pless
In Memory Albert Weast & In Honor of Dot Weast by: Larry Barbee Family



Poinsettias

In Honor of:

Andrew & Whitney Sanders by: Matt & Kristi

Billie Barrier by: Matt & Kristi

Bob & Joann Barrier by: Frances Pless

Bob & Joann Barrier by: Larry Barbee Family

Bob & Joann Barrier by: Matt & Kristi

Betty Archer & Family by: Chris, Hannah, Caden & Hadley

Pless Carl Pless, Jr. & Family by: Chris, Hannah, Caden & Hadley Pless

Cayle Drye Family by: Matt & Kristi

Cheryl Strube by: Richard & Jodie Strube

Chris, Suzanne & Sheblie Bost by: Matt & Kristi

Clyde & Carol Drye by: Matt & Kristi

Danny & Ashley Eller and Family by: Dylan, Ashley & Corbin Ennis

David & Gail Leonard by: Matt & Kristi

David M. Leonard by: Matt & Kristi

Doris McCarn by: Caden & Hadley Pless

Ed & Niki Sverko and Family by: Dylan, Ashleigh & Corbin Ennis

Elizabeth Baucom & Family by: Chris, Hannah, Caden & Hadley Pless

Frances Pless by: Larry Barbee Family

Frances Kanipe by: Matt & Kristi

Helen Huneycutt by: Caden & Hadley Pless

Henry & Lindsay Pless by: Caden & Hadley Pless

Jane Faggart by: John, Karen and Amanda Faggart

Jerry & Judy Hager by: Susan & Kelly Caudle

Jeff & Debra Campbell by: Matt & Kristi

Kaasi & Jasper by: Matt & Kristi

Kay Barbee by: Doug, Heather, Chloe & Kensington Bell & Wayne Furr

Larry Barbee Family by: Frances Pless

Leonard & Belinda Campbell by: Matt & Kristi

Pastor & Teresa Allison by: Chris, Hannah, Caden & Hadley Pless

Pastor & Teresa by: Larry Barbee Family

Sherry Baker by: Richard & Jodie Strube

Steve & Dianne Earhardt by: Caden and Hadley Pless

Yvonne Yost by: Doug, Heather, Chloe & Kensington Bell & Wayne Furr

Rand & Yvonne Yost by: Larry Barbee Family

Rand & Yvonne Yost by: Matt & Kristi

Rusty & Rhonda Drye by: Matt & Kristi



December 19, 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... 1 Timothy 2:1

In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ

Family of Albert Weast

Kay Barbee; Kevin Blackburn; John Faggart; Harry Goodman; Candice Horton; Frances Kanipe; Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; Katelyn Strube; John Trull; Dot Weast (Recovery from COVID at Home); John and Cathy Weast (Recovery from COVID)

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan); Will Drye

Friends of Cross of Christ

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

- Richard and Jodie Strube – the prayers during their recovery were appreciated.
- Bettie Bean (Mother of Belinda Campbell and Barbara Seagraves) appreciates all the prayers as she continues her eye surgery recovery.

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

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.

Today December 19, 2021

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

This Week

FRI: 9PM Christmas Eve Communion Service

SAT: Merry Christmas!!! Christ Is Born!!!

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Christmas Eve



Isaiah 9: 2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2: 11-14
St. Luke 2: 1-20