



# *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 †*

***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

***December 18, 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

*“The First Noel”*

**LBW 56**

\*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up you 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

**WOV 630**

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*

**(vs 1-4)**

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

<sup>2</sup> <sup>[a]</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore 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.

<sup>4</sup> And 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.

<sup>5</sup> And 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!**

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

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

**<sup>2</sup> Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,  
stir up your might  
and come to save us!**

**<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**<sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

**<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

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

**<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

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

**<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>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.’” <sup>8</sup>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), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And 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 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

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

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

This is Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

SONGS FROM "LITTLE DRUMMER DUDE"

Persia's Traveling Band

That Star

Not Too Little

Be Born in me Today

\*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

\*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.

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

**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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#### ***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.*

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and memory of George Pless, Sr by Frances Pless.

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.

**January** newsletter articles are due **next week**.

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.

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Teresa and I will be traveling to Okinawa, Japan to visit Eaven, Jayci, and our grandchildren. We will be away from the parish following Christmas morning services until Saturday, January 21. **HOLY COMMUNION** will be moved from the first Sunday of January to **Sunday, January 22**. Our Executive Committee has been given contact information in case of a pastoral emergency during my absence. Teresa and I appreciate the opportunity to go and visit our family, (one of which we have not seen in person yet!), and wish you all the best until our return. Christ's Peace, Pastor



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

**Tonight Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 pm**



**December 18, 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... 1 Timothy 2:1*

### **In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ**

John Faggart; Joyce Harkins; Candice Horton; Linda Horton;  
Doris & Frank Kluttz; Gail Leonard (Surgery scheduled for 12/19/2022);  
Carl Pless (Fall resulting in hip pain); John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast;  
John Weast (Knee replacement surgery recovery);  
Bob Yost (Home continuing recovery)

### **Serving in the Military**

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

### **Friends of Cross of Christ**

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; 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:**

- Coy Edgison – prayers were appreciated and he is doing great.

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

## **Today – December 18, 2022**

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

### **This Week**

**SAT:** 9:00 PM Christmas Eve  
Candlelight/Communion Service

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

9:00 AM	Sunday Church School Classes
10:00 AM	Holy Communion Service

### **Next Sunday's Readings**

*Christmas Sunday  
Service of Lessons and Carols*

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