



**KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081**

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am

TRAVELING MUSIC / WELCOME

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 4

A Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved. O house of David, come,

C **let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**

**People Look
East, v.4**

4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

READING Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

L A reading from the first chapter of Romans.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Gluten-free is available on request. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Sung)

C Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us, and we remember the promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

P The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you—eat and remember the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one.

C So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

P The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you—drink and remember He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

C So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

C And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond, and to remember our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth. As we share in His suffering, we proclaim Christ will come again! And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

C 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.

INVITATION

P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

You may receive the Elements as the words are said:

The Body of Christ given for You; The Blood of Christ shed for You.

Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.

COMMUNION SONG

Emmanuel

Bob McGee

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace. C Amen.

SCRIPTURE SONG

Here Is Our King

David Crowder

VERSE

Unison

From wher - ev - er spring - ar - rives to heal the ground..

From where - ev - er search - ing comes -

to look it - self. A trace of what we're look - ing for

so be quiet now, and wait.

PRE-CHORUS

The o - cean is grow - ing.

CHORUS

The tide is come and here it is: Here is our

King. Here is our Love. Here is our God who comes to bring

GREETING

- P The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C Amen.

PRAYER OF DAY

- A Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C Amen.

LET'S TALK

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

- P The Gospel of the Lord
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

- A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.
- C **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.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

- A Following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus breathed peace upon his disciples. We share in this peace of Christ in the Church today. The peace of the Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.
- A Please kneel or be seated for the Prayers.

*Prayer petitions will conclude: "God of grace,"
The congregation's response is: "hear our prayer."*

- P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
- C Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P May God who comes among us, Father,  Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.
- C Amen.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace

ceive her king; let every heart prepare him
 songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his blessings
 na - tions prove the glories of his righteous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy,
 flow far as the curse is found,
 ness and won - ders of his love,

and heav'n and na - ture re - peat the sound-ing
 far as the curse is and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 C Thanks be to God.