



Kure Memorial Lutheran Church  
117 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., PO Box 1  
Kure Beach, NC 28449  
910-458-5266  
Website: [www.kmlc.org](http://www.kmlc.org)  
Email: [kurememorial@kurememorial.com](mailto:kurememorial@kurememorial.com)

# *Blue Christmas Service of Care, Hope and Healing*

7PM † December 21, 2021



*The People Walking in Darkness  
Have Seen a Great Light...*

*(Isaiah 9:2)*

**Blue Christmas Service of Care, Hope and Healing**  
**December 21, 2021**

These weeks of Advent and Christmas are for many, times of great joy and celebration. But for many others, it is a difficult time filled with grief, regrets and longing. May this time of worship offer care, hope and healing through the hope and promise of the coming of Jesus our Lord.

*(During our worship this evening, we will be singing familiar Christmas songs and carols.  
Please listen to the meaning and feeling of the words, as you sing the verses.)*

† *Indicates stand as you are able*

*L: Leader*

*P: People*

L: As we begin our service this evening, you are invited to come forward to light a candle or candles as a sign of your prayers of longing, remembrance and hope.

*(time of soft music)*

*(Once candles are lit and everyone is seated)*

† **Lighting the Advent Wreath:**

L: We light the candle of Hope as we await the coming of Jesus, who is our source of hope.  
*(candle of hope is lit)*

**P: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of hope, in our times of emptiness.**

L: We light the candle of Peace, knowing that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. *(candle of peace is lit)*

**P: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of peace in our times of uncertainty.**

L: We light the candle of Joy, knowing that our comfort and help come from God. *(candle of joy is lit)*

**P: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of joy in our times of sadness.**

L: We light the candle of Love, knowing that God is love revealed to us in Jesus Christ. *(candle of love is lit)*

**P: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of love in our times of loneliness.**

† **Call to worship:** *(Words of promise from the Gospel of John the first chapter)*

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**P: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth, and we have seen his glory.**

L: In him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

**P: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

† **Opening Prayer:**

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray: God of love, comfort and understanding, as we gather for worship this evening, we are weighed down with our grief, our pain, our disappointments, our fears and the chaos of our world, and we lay it all before you.

**P: Help us to know that you are present with us in all of our struggles. And fill us, we pray with the hope, peace, joy and love that you promise to all of your people through the gift of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Amen.**

**Readings:**

Isaiah 40:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

*(pause for reflection)*

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup>"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." <sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live

securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders,  
*(pause for reflection)*

Matthew 1:18-23

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).  
*(pause for reflection)*

**Song of Hope:**

*Love Has Come*

Red Book 292

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
- 3 Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**Reflection:**

*(quiet time for meditation)*



**Song of Hope:**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Red Book 282

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

† **Our Confession and Our Assurance of God's Grace:**

L: God of grace, we bring our hurts, our sorrows and our sins to you with full confidence that your forgiveness, grace and love will fill our lives.,

*(Words of Confession and Forgiveness are from 1 John 1:5-7)*

L: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

**P: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness,**

Leader: We lie and do not live out the truth.

**P: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us of all our sins.**

L: Sisters and brothers, through the death of Jesus on the cross and by his glorious resurrection, we are forgiven and made new in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**P: Amen.**

*(Pause for reflection).*

† **Song of Healing:**  
*Refrain*

*Healer of Our Every Ill*

Red Book 612

Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

2 In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

4 You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

† **Prayers:**

L: Let us pray: God of compassion, you have given us your own Son, Jesus Christ, to be for us the great physician, making the broken whole and overcoming even the darkness of death and despair, with new life and hope. We thank you for the one who touched the untouchable, reached

out to the dying, and brought healing and wholeness to those who were broken and in despair.  
(*pause for reflection*)

L: Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts, and restore us to wholeness of life, through this same Lord Jesus Christ. Set our troubled souls free, O Lord, from restlessness and anxiety. Uphold us by your strength. Anchor us upon the rock of your faithfulness. Give us your peace and power and so keep us that in all times of trouble and distress, we may know you hold us close. (*pause for reflection*)

L: Indeed, you are faithful, O God. You not only give us your word that can be trusted, but you also lend us your ear for our comfort. Hear us now as we offer silently our prayers for the people and situations represented by these candles that were lit earlier this evening, and for the needs that are in the quiet of our hearts. (*pause for reflection*)

L: Grant us, O God, the fullness of your promises. Where we have been weak, grant us your strength; where we have been confused, grant us your guidance; where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort; and in all times and circumstances of our lives, grant us your peace.  
(*pause for reflection*)

L: God of great compassion and love, grant to all, especially those who grieve and those who are troubled this Christmas, the blessing we ask in the name of Christ who taught us to pray together:

**P: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### † **Benediction**

#### **Sending Song:**

*Away in a Manger*

Red Book 277

1     Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
      the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
      the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
      the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3     Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
      close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
      Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
      and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

#### † **Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace, sharing the peace and comfort of our Lord!

**P: Thanks be to God!**

#### † **Sharing God's Peace**

## ✠ REMEMBER IN PRAYER ✠

### HOMEBOUND, HOSPITALIZED, SPECIAL CONCERNS

Eleanor Lundy, Ellen Prevatte, Ted Prevatte, Maxine Jordan, Lisa Lee, Barry Nelder, Emily Barber, Irene Girvan, Bob Stuart, Mina Piedmont, Joanne Adams, Victoria Sanchez, Aris Mora, Billy Ward, John Walker, Morgan Davison, Kaitlin Sprague, Beth Loony, Megan Peoplis, Andra Ciparis, Clifford Johnson, Beth Deaton, Don Bowman, Ruth Ann Getsinger, Herb Flamer, Raymond & Dottie Holden, Gene Miller, Gladys Girardot, Don Smith, Trudy Ford, Ann Scott, Kelly Cahill, Sandra Mullins, Kyra Stratman, Cooper Smith, Isabell Foushee, Tammy Gillis, Diane Stultz, Chuck Shoaff, Jeff Wempler, Charlene Gibbens, Tracy Caldwell, Susan Shearin, Marlin Petermann, Wes Stapleton, Jack Campbell.

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

Sandy Hunt (Buckley), Tracy McKay, Tom Grady, Pat Hankin (Hambel), Senka Gambino, Jean Behanna, Rick & Sharon Ellis (Lundy), Terry Ford & Carl Ford (Rehder), Arlo Bond (Jordan), Joey (Palamara), Pat Addington (Hearne), Julian, Jason & baby Jackson (Full), Mary Adobato (Vecchio), Megan Manley (Cox), Richard White (Prevatte), Kari Craig, (Palamara), Larry Gilbert (Wrenn), Anne C., Claire Houston, Tammy V., Dave Stultz, Matt Stultz, Belle Hunt, Steve Siferd, Janet Kassor, (Keck), Meghan O'Brien (Campbell), Laura & John McMahon (Lundy), Carter (Graff).

*Please pray for the caregivers as they care for those who are ill.*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS OF OUR CHURCH

Federal Point Help Center / Coupons to Service men's families / KMLC Preschool / Girl Scout Troops #867, #901 and #155 / Good Shepherd (food & supplies) / Trinity Grove / KMLC Youth Group / Katie B Hines Senior Center lunch program / The Lutheran Church of Costa Rica/ Casa Abierta-La Carpio / Seamen's Center

### STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGE / SEMINARY

Emily Graff-Luther Seminary / Tommy Ullring-UNC-W / Katelyn Copenhaver-Santa Fe College / Jordan Pivik- East Carolina University / Rachel Pivik-ECU / Katie Elkin-Duke Divinity School / Andro Keck- University of South Carolina / Vegas Vecchio- University of Washington, Seattle / Mackenzie Clark-Hood College, Maryland / Matthew Shuttleworth-Cape Fear Community College / Mia Shoffner-East Carolina University / Sydney Maguire-College of Charleston / Preston Gourville-Vanderbilt / Kelsey Bloch-Wake Tech / Kari Bloch-Wake Tech / Jordan Gourville-University of South Carolina / Hawthorne Hamm-UNC Chapel Hill.

### MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING

Col Wayne Lett in Frankfort, Germany; John Brandon in Wayton, Utah; Steven Blum at Fort Bragg; Christopher Bennett in San Diego, CA; Marley Von Cannon at a Naval Base in Walton County Florida; Brandon Muehl at Fort Bragg, NC; Jacob Clinton at Fort Geiger, NC; Thomas Stafford at Ft. Bragg, NC, Nick Schwenker-Fort Benning, GA; Rileigh Fortney- Maimstrom AFB, Montana

### COSTA RICA MICRO LOAN RECIPIENTS

Rosa Marin, Aida Marin, Raquel Marin: Village of Guatuso / Zoraida Hernandez, Raul Perez: Village of Quitirrisi / Ana Yensi Rivera: La Carpi / Alexa Araya: San Jose / Marta Doderó.