



A Service of Hanging of the Greens

Asbury United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR
November 30, 2014

Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

Rev. David Moore

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 1 - 4) **211**

*LITANY OF THE GREENS

Chris Byrd (8:30)
Rick Shelton (10:45)

How can we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King? "

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

**With garlands of wreaths of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living,
ever green.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our savior?

**With arrangements of holly and ivy, symbolizing His passion, death
and resurrection.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

**By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving
work of God.**

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that
the world through Him might be saved.

All Glory to God in the highest!

*INVOCATION

**God of manger and star, let us enter your story once again and find
ourselves kneeling with the shepherds, singing with the angels and
worshipping with the Magi. Touch our hearts with the wonder of
birth, and the depths of your love. Speak to us in word and song
and lift us to the realms of glory. Amen.**

CAROL

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

196

PARAMENTS

Isaiah 40:3-5

Becky Frederick and Katy Camp (8:30)
Charles Galloway and Jean Beth Hill (10:45)

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

NARRATOR

We have placed the Advent paraments, which are blue, a royal color to remind us of the King of Kings, who came to be the "Light of the World."

CAROL "Every Valley" Chancel Choir
John Ness Beck

ADVENT WREATH

Jeremiah 23:5-6 Andy and Brooke Rose Family (8:30)
Sara Riddle (10:45)

The days are surely coming says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which He will be called: "The Lord is our Righteousness."

NARRATOR

The Advent Wreath is a vivid symbol of preparation. The lighting of a new candle each of the four weeks before Christmas reminds us that something is happening, but more is yet to come. The circle of evergreens reminds us of the everlasting covenant offered in the birth of Jesus. The four candles symbolize HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE. Today, we light the first candle as a symbol of Christ, our HOPE. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

CAROL "In the Bleak Midwinter" (verses 1&3) **221**

WREATHS AND GARLAND

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Doug and Cindi Walker (8:30)
Janie and Rusty Mullen Family (10:45)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, among them a light has shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

NARRATOR

From ancient times, evergreens have been considered a symbol of eternity, a sign of God's everlasting nature. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hang wreaths shaped in circles, and place garlands of green, as a sign of everlasting life. These are symbols of Christ's gift of eternal life and of the celebration of Christmas itself.

CAROL "A Child Is Born" Chancel Choir
Benjamin Harlan

HOLLY AND IVY

Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 5-6 Barbara Clark and Pat Cash (8:30)
John Gentry (10:45)

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; Surely He has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases. But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; Upon Him was the punishment that made us whole. And by His bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

NARRATOR

For Christians, this passage from Isaiah reflects the sufferings of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by His death on the cross, and by His resurrection from the dead. In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of Christ's passion. Their prickly leaves suggest the crown of thorns, the red berries the blood of the Savior, and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we place the holly and ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus our Savior.

CAROL "The Holly and the Ivy"
1. The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown.

CHORUS

The rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

3. The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.

CHORUS

4. The holly bears a prickly, as sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas day in the morn.

CHORUS

POINSETTIA

Numbers 24:17

Joe and Amber Hof Family (8:30)

Tom and Jane New (10:45)

I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near ...a star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

NARRATOR

The poinsettia speaks to us symbolically in several ways. The star-shaped formation of ten leaves calls to mind the star which shone that first Christmas. In a less joyous sense, the color of the flower is blood red, reminding us of the male infants killed because King Herod wanted to eliminate any threat to his throne. We sometimes forget this part of the story, which made it necessary for Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child to flee to Egypt.

CAROL

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Chancel Choir

Arr. Larry Shackley

MANGER

Luke 2:6-7

Craig and Ashley Boes Family (8:30)

Jim and Sheri Dawson Family (10:45)

And while they were there the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the Inn.

NARRATOR

The manger or crèche, is placed as a reminder that Jesus Christ was born in the humblest of places, because humankind would not make room in their heart to hold the Son of God. Jesus, who was born in this most modest beginning, has compassion on all God's children - from the humblest to the richest.

CAROL

"Yet A King"

Chancel Choir

Jay Althouse

CAROLING

Psalms 96: 1-4a, 6

Greg and Leslie Stansell Family (8:30)

Val Carr and Bonnie Covey (10:45)

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth, Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

NARRATOR

The singing of carols is one of the greatest joys of the season. Please remain seated as we sing the first verse of each carol listed below.

CAROLS

"Once in Royal David's City" (v.1,2)

250

"There's a Song In the Air" (v.1-4)

249

"Angels From the Realms of Glory" (v.1,2,4)

220

"O Come All Ye Faithful" (v.1,3,5)

234

EVERGREEN TREE

Micah 5:2, 4

Don and Becky Davis (8:30)

Scott and Martha Christie Family (10:45)

But you, O Bethlehem, from you shall come forth one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from ancient days. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall live secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and He shall be the one of peace.

NARRATOR

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality, and was used for purification. We have placed this tree in the sanctuary as a symbol of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming will purify our hearts.

CAROL

"Awaken Us, O Lord"

Chancel Choir

Mark Hayes

TREE LIGHTING

John 1: 1-5, 9-14

Shane and Karen Marriott Family (8:30)

The Mazhil Family (10:45)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the Beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born not of the blood or of the will of the

flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

NARRATOR

As our final preparation for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we will light the Chrismon tree. And in this time of Advent, whenever you see a lighted tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light into our darkness, healing in our brokenness, and peace to all who will receive Him. May this tree, arrayed in beauty and splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in hearts.

*CAROL "Joy to the World" **246**

*BENEDICTION Rev. Mary Hilliard (8:30)
Rev. Chase Green (10:45)

Go forth from this place an awakened people, aware of the world's darkness, yet reaching for the light.

We see God at work in our world, and that makes all the difference.

Go forth from this place an expectant people, conscious of judgment in our midst, yet welcoming God's new order and justice.

We welcome God's new day, believing that Christ will set us free.

Go forth from this place a serving people, sensing anew the pain so many bear, yet confident God will bring healing, even through you.

We open ourselves as channels of God's grace, for we have heard good news and we have been empowered to share it.

May the God of peace be with us all, this season and forever.

Amen and Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL & BENEDICTION "Let There Be Peace on Earth" **431**

Liturgist: 8:30 - Chris Byrd, 10:45 - Rick Shelton
Narrator: 8:30 - Diane Gardner, 10:45 - Stephen Edds
Minister of Music - Stephen Edds • Organist - Anguel Kehayov

Chancel Choir

Richard Bloesch	Richard Hunter	R.J. Robertson
Donna Broyles	Gail King	Georgia Seward
Dick Carr	Ginny Kurrus	Dale Skiles
Val Carr	Mary Noble	Ruth Skiles
Bonnie Covey	Ruston Pierce	Audrey Smith
Susan Gelé	Bob Powers	Doug Walker
Tony Hilliard	Hannah Purtle	Susan Williams
Sabrina Hinson	Cheryl Robertson	

Special Events

Sunday, November 30.....	Hanging of the Greens in all services
Sunday, November 30.....	Family Life Dinner 5pm (WAC)
Tuesday, December 2.....	John the Baptist Study 10 am (Rm 123)
Tuesday, December 2.....	Keenagers 12 pm (WAC)
Sunday, December 7.....	Cookies & Milk with St. Nick 3 pm (WAC)

SUNDAY, November 23rd, 2014		Prayers
<i>Sunday School: 206</i>		Eleanor Kilbourne
8:30 (D): 135		Rev. Nathan & Rev. Lynn Kilbourne
10:45 (D): 59		Jean Casey
10:45 (C): 141		Family of Jerry Volsen
		Family of Barbara Hugg
		Family of Bill Cowan
<i>Total Worship Attendance: 335</i>		New Members
Guests: 33 (including)	First-time guests: 5	Joined
		Diann White
		11/23/14



Family Life Dinner - Sunday, November 30th - 5 pm

Dinner is free and open to all! We will enjoy food, fellowship, carols, and a special skit by our children!

Pastor on Call: November 29 & 30 Rev. Mary Hilliard

Preaching Schedule	1st Sunday of Advent	2nd Sunday of Advent
8:30 Divine Worship	Sunday, November 30th	Sunday, December 7th
10:45 Divine Worship	<i>Hanging of the Greens in all services</i>	Rev. Chase Green
10:45 Celebration Worship	<i>(A Worship Experience of Scriptures, Carols & Lights)</i>	Rev. Chase Green
		Rev. Mary Hilliard

November Drivers Van: George Cirks Car: Ron Paulson

New Advent Series – John the Baptist: Come join Rev. Chase on Tuesday mornings at 10 am for the remaining three weeks, as we learn about the man who would fore tell the coming of Jesus Christ.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

If you would like to make a donation to the Poinsettia Christmas Fund in honor or memory of someone, please attach \$10.00 for each poinsettia to this order form and return this form to the church office **by Monday, December 15th**. Poinsettias can be picked up after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.



Given by: _____

Phone # in case we have any questions: _____

(Circle one) Honor/Memory of: _____