

The Hanging of the Greens

November 25, 2018

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER Pastor and Congregation

CALL TO WORSHIP ... “The Coming of the Lord” Choir

LITANY OF THE GREENS

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?

People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

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

People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our Savior?

People: With wreaths of holly and ivy, symbolizing his passion, death, and resurrection.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

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

Leader: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

HYMN ... “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ... vs. 1 and 3..... 103

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Brandi Powers

MEANING OF THE HANGING OF THE GREENS..... Pastor

FIRST READING

Reader 1: The prophet proclaims good news to people in exile.

Scripture: *Isaiah 40:1-5*

HYMN ... “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ... vs. 1 and 2 79

SECOND READING

Reader 1: The Lord promises to send the people a righteous king.

Scripture: *Jeremiah 23:5-6*

Reader 2: In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality, and was used for purification. We place this cedar in the sanctuary as a symbol of Christ, who reigns as king forever, and whose coming, in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

HYMN ... “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”..... 83

THIRD READING

Reader 1: The prophet announces the reign of the Messiah.

Scripture: *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Reader 2: Because the needles of the pine and fir trees do not die each season like the leaves of most trees, the ancients saw them as symbols of things that last forever. In the scripture passage just read, the prophet Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah, so in our windows we hang wreaths shaped in circles which have no end, to signify the eternal Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN ... “Fairest Lord Jesus” ... vs. 1 and 4 159

OFFERTORY PRAYER Usher

OFFERTORY ... “Go Tell It on the Mountain” Choir

FOURTH READING

Reader 1: The prophet tells of the healing power of the Anointed One.

Scripture: *Isaiah 61:1-3*

Reader 2: Because this is the passage which Jesus reads at the beginning of his ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth, and which he applied to himself, we cannot hear these words of Isaiah without thinking of the healing that the coming of the Christ will bring. The evergreen most associated with healing power in the ancient world was the mistletoe. People believed its special powers came from a lightning bolt that fixed it high up in a tree, and therefore, both the mistletoe and lightning were from heaven itself. Mistletoe’s healing power was not only for physical ailments, but for the healing of relationships as well. Originally, the kiss under the mistletoe was known as the “kiss of peace,” symbolizing reconciliation. It is in keeping with this more ancient meaning that we decorate this house with mistletoe, in anticipation of the coming of the healing presence of Jesus the Christ.

HYMN ... “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ... vs. 1 and 3 127

FIFTH READING

Reader 1: The prophet describes the redeemer of Israel as the Suffering Servant.

Scripture: *Isaiah 53:1-6*

Reader 2: The poinsettia, discovered in Mexico in 1828 by Dr. Joel Poinsett of Charleston, SC, is known in Mexico as *Flor de la Noche Buena* – Flower of the Holy Night. It is a colorful tropical plant which has come to be recognized as an emblem of the Christmas season. The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes considered a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. Today we place in our sanctuary this

example of the beauty and splendor of God's world as we remember the suffering servant who "bore the iniquity of us all."

HYMN ... "Child in the Manger" ... vs. 1 and 2 112

SIXTH READING

Reader 1: Let us hear the words of the Evangelist as he tells of the coming of the Light of the World.

Scripture: *John 1:1-5, 9-14*

CHORAL BENEDICTION ... "At the Right Time"

BENEDICTION..... Pastor

CALENDAR

TODAY

9:00 a.m..... BREAKFAST

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m..... Leave for trip to Southern Supreme and lunch

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. Supper ... Team 1

6:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Bible Study, Youth and Children

THURSDAY

11:00 a.m..... Community Meal

USHERS

TODAY Barbara Smith's Team

NEXT SUNDAY Eugene Crisco's Team

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

TODAY Pauline and McKenzie Jackson and Betty Green

NEXT SUNDAY Candy and Elizabeth Loflin and Mary Beth McCaskill

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly budget needs ... \$2,438.00

Monthly budget needs\$10,567.00

Last week's offering... \$

October offering\$10,441.00