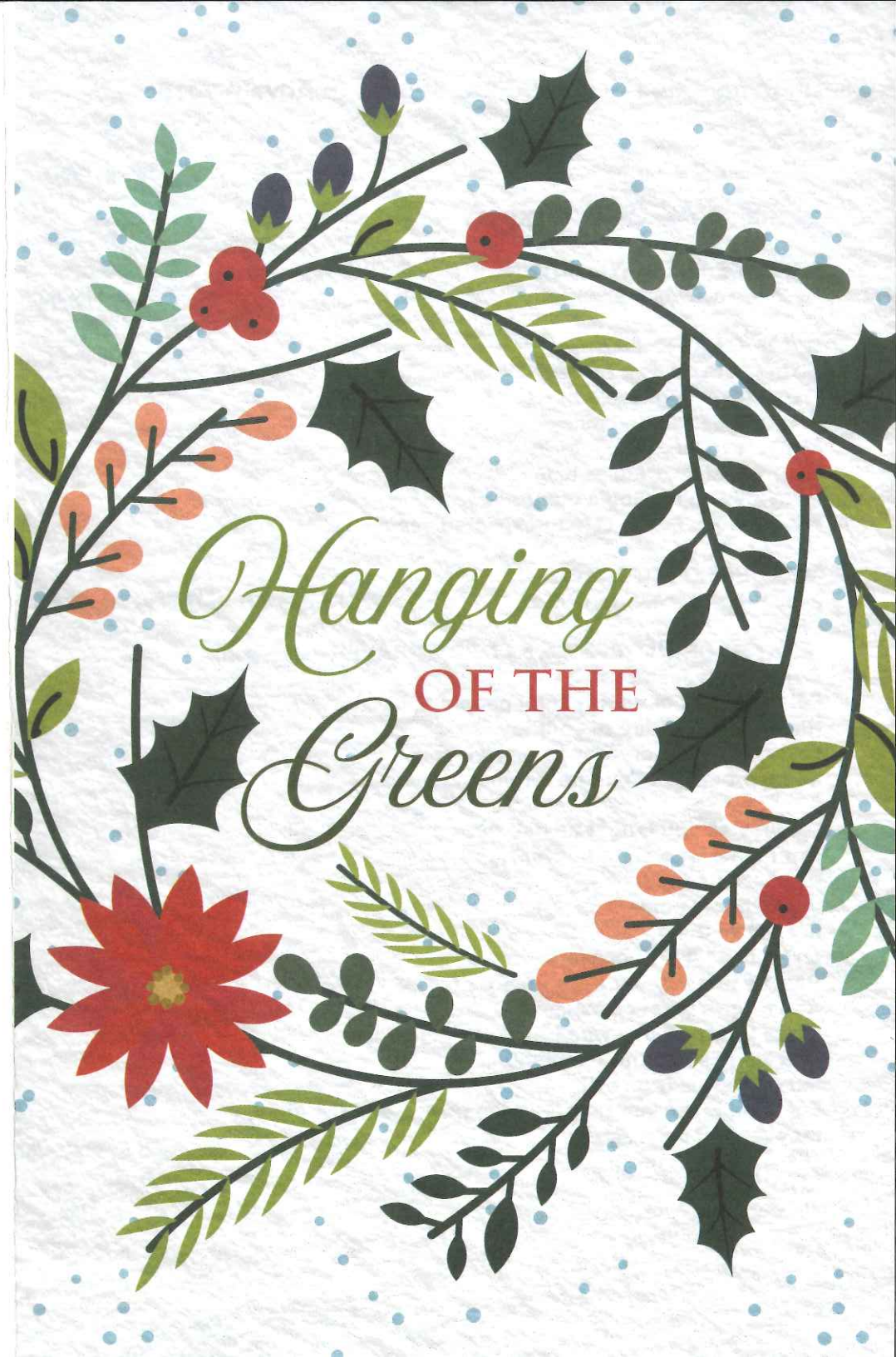


We are grateful for those who serve with us today!
The FBC Choir & Jerrold Eilander, organist / accompanist
Acolytes: Madeleine Perrin and Roy Domning
Readers: Rev. Dr. Ryan Sato, Rev. Jeremy Keay,
Rev. Amanda Strain, Karen Bellous
Handbells: Evelyn Blanchette, Christine Marthinsen,
Jon Mitchell, Joyce Tustian, Carolynne Ross
Usher: Gordon Dinwoodie
Sound tech: Wendell Noordhof
Minister of Children & Families: Dawn Stiles
Minister of Music: Dr. Evelyn Grieger



Hangings of the Greens - First Sunday in Advent 2019

PRELUDE

The Holly and the Ivy

arr. J. Biery

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PREPARE THE WAY – ADVENT INTROIT

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. R. A. Hobby

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: You came as a Servant

Many: revealing God's heart

One: You came as a counselor

Many: revealing God's truth

One: You are coming as King

Many: revealing God's glory

All: Even so, come, O long-expected Jesus!

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL

#152 Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Come, Lord Jesus.

Fill the hearts of your faithful people.

Kindle in us the fire of your love.

Prepare us in every way to receive you

as we prepare once more for your coming.

We pray as you taught us to pray:

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,

for ever and ever. Amen

ANTHEM

Invocation for Advent

D. Besig

The Meaning of the Service

In this season of Advent, we prepare our sanctuary together and fill it with our songs and prayers - - and once again we prepare a place for Christ Jesus in our hearts.

The Greens

"The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the pine, the fir and the cypress Together, to adorn the place of my sanctuary; and I will glorify the place of my feet." (Isaiah 60:13)

CAROL (remain seated)

Sans Day Carol

arr. J. Rutter

Soprano - Adrienne Sitko

The greenery is hung

The Flowers

"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys." (Song of Songs 2:1)

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." (Isaiah 11:1)

CAROL (remain seated)

#190 Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

The flowers are placed

The Tree

"And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground - trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." (Genesis 2:9)

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life... on each side of the river stood the tree of life." (Revelation 22:1-2)

The Meaning of the Symbols

Presented by the children

CAROL (remain seated)

Evergreen and ever-fragrant (see next page)

STUTTGART

Words: Philip M. Young (1992) Tune: Christian E. Witt

Printed with permission by Philip M. Young.

The tree is decorated by the children

Evergreen and ever-fragrant

Philip M. Young

1992

STUTTGART

87,87

1. Ev - er - green and ev - er - fra - grant sym - bol of e - ter - ni - ty,
 2. Light of lights to all de - scend - ing, white of per - fect pur - i - ty,
 3. Star and creche and her - ald an - gel, tell of love and mys - ter - y,
 4. Cross of sac - ri - fice and suff - ring, crown of life and vic - to - ry,

tell - ing of the Christ with - in us, stands the won - drous Chris - mon tree,
 gold of maj - es - ty and glo - ry crown the ra - diant Chris - mon tree.
 cel - e - brate the Christ a - mong us, wel - comed by the Chris - mon tree.
 Je - sus Christ our - Lord re - veal - ing: hon - ored through the Chris - mon tree.

The Gifts

"For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or a sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in them? Dear children, let us not love with words and tongue, but in actions and truth." (1John 3:17-18)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. W. Held

*Offertory Response

So, bring Him incense, gold and myrrh

Come, peasant, king to own Him;

The King of Kings salvation brings.

Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Prayer (in unison)

We bring our treasures and gifts; and some of it gold, and some of it frankincense, and some of it myrrh; and some has come from plenty, and some from joy, some from deepest sorrow of the soul.

Accept our gifts, O God, may these offerings and our lives be a blessing in our world. Amen.

The Crèche

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7)

CAROL (remain seated)

#205 Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

The crèche is placed

The Light

"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... And the Word became flesh and lived among us." (John 1:1-5, 9, 14a)

LITANY FOR LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.

God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

Advent is a time of self-examination.

God of light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.

Advent is a time of joyful expectation.

God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.

Advent is a time of service and searching.

God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.

The first Advent candle is lit

*CAROL

#231 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

The tree lights and candles are lit

Dedication of Our Symbols and Ourselves

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with righteousness from this time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

We have prepared our sanctuary for the coming of the Christ child.
We prepare ourselves also for his coming as Lord of our lives and his
eventual coming in glory as Ruler of all. In silent prayer let us quiet our
hearts and prepare for his renewed presence in this Advent season.

(Silence)

Now let us pray together...

Prayer (unison)

**Lord Jesus, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace, we have prepared our sanctuary for your coming.**

We dedicate these symbols of our faith to you.

**As individuals and as a people we prepare ourselves for your coming,
so that you would be Lord of our lives.**

**As your light shines in our darkness, may the light of the Good News
of Christ's coming shine in the dark corners of our world.**

We pray in the name of the one whose coming we await.

Amen.

***CAROL FOR THE JOURNEY**

#163 All Earth Is Hopeful (*Toda la Tierra*)

TAULÉ

***THE BLESSING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Benediction**

And now may God - the Creator of light and life, trees and flowers,
snow and rain -- friendship and celebration -- grant us peace.

May this decorated place of worship proclaim the birth of our Lord and may
our lives "put on display" the life of Christ and proclaim his coming to those
around us. In the name of Jesus, the "arriving one." Amen.

***Congregational Amen**

***POSTLUDE**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

arr. J. Weber

** Please stand as you are able*

CHRISMONS – Christ's Monograms



Chi Rho – (pronounced ki ro) The oldest monogram to represent Christ is made up of the first two letters of the name "Christ" in Greek. Chi looks like an X and Rho looks like a P.



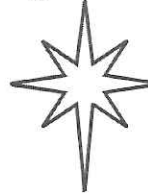
Nativity – The symbol of Christ's birth is formed with the Chi Rho. Joining the lines at the top of the Chi (X) forms a manger.



Lamb – The lamb represents Christ, the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) as well as the Lamb of God.



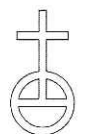
Shepherd's Crook – Reminds us of Christ, the Good Shepherd, who tends and cares for the sheep and asks us to do the same. We also see the shape of the crook in Christmas candy canes.



Star of Bethlehem – In the Bible, stars are often associated with the promise of the Messiah. The 5-point star is also known as the Star of Epiphany -- showing the child Jesus to the Gentiles represented by the Magi of the East.



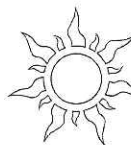
Cross and Crown – The cross is the symbol of salvation, while the crown reminds us that Christ is Lord of all. The faithful will also receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).



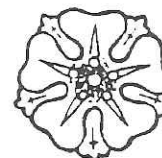
Cross on the Orb – This symbol declares that Christ loved and died for the whole world.



Fish – The fish was the secret sign used by early Christians to avoid persecution. The first letters of the Greek words, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour," spell "fish" (ichthus or ΙΧΘΥΣ) in Greek.



Sun – This Christ symbols suggests the "sun of righteousness" mentioned by Malachi, "But for you who honour my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings" (Mal. 4:2).



Messianic or Christmas Rose – Long ago, Isaiah prophesied that the stump of Jesse's (David's father) tree would blossom; centuries later, Jesus was born from David's line, and is represented by a simple white rose.