

# Hanging of the Greens - First Sunday in Advent 2021

#### **PRELUDE**

Advent Partita - Evergreen and Ever Fragrant

E. Broughton

### **GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

### PREPARE THE WAY - ADVENT INTROIT

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

0-80-80

# **CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

One: A voice cries out:

Many: Prepare for God's arrival!

One: Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our

God.

Many: Fill in the valleys, level off the hills.

One. Smooth out the ruts, and clear out the rocks.

Many: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: Let us worship together.

## \*PROCESSIONAL CAROL

#152 Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERREN



### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

R.A. Hobby

# 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)

### **SOLO**

Sans Day Carol Adrienne Sitko, soprano J. Rutter

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**

#190 Lo, How a Rose E'er 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, read more about the Chrismons on the last page of this service.

**CAROL** (sanctuary attendees remain seated)

Evergreen and ever-fragrant

STUTTGART

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

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# **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." (1 John 3:17-18)

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

I Wonder as I Wander

arr. T. Shaw

\*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:

whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

# **Prayer:**

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope.

We give in hope.

Hope for your coming reign;

Hope because of your presence with us even now.

Receive these generous offerings,

And use them for your work of healing and hope 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** (sanctuary attendees remian seated) #205 Away in a Manger

**Cradle Song** 

The crèche is placed



WORDS: Anonymous, 1885; vs. 3 John Thomas McFarland (1851-1913) MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

CRADLE SONG 11.11.11.11.

## **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)

#### CAROL FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

#178 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

B. McGee



WORDS and MUSIC: Bob McGee (1944-)
Words and Music © 1976 C. A. Music (Admin. Music Services)

#### LITANY FOR LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

During Advent, we wait for the One promised in the story of God.

## And he is named Wonderful Counselor.

We wait for the One who will bring answers to a world filled with questions.

## And he is named Wonderful Counselor.

We wait for the One who can heal what has been wounded and mend what has been broken.

### And he is named Wonderful Counselor.

We wait for the One who can renew our weary spirits and ignite our hearts with hope.

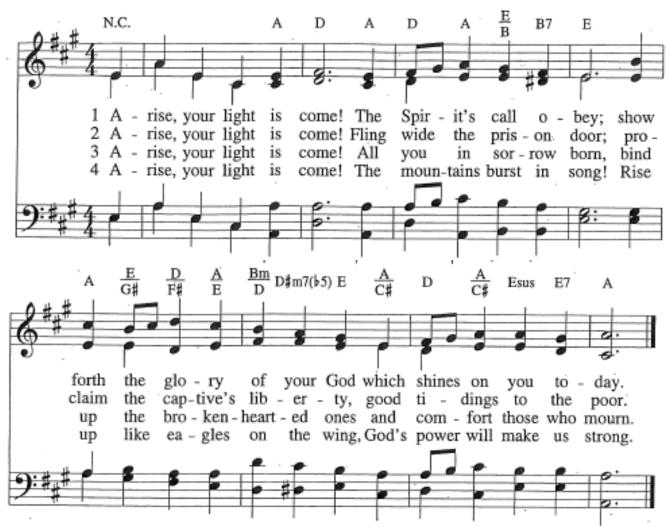
And he is named Wonderful Counselor.

The first Advent candle is lit, please sing "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" again

#### \*CAROL

#231 Arise, Your Light Has Come!

**FESTAL SONG** 



# **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 is named Wonderful Counselor, 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 do this." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

We have prepared our sanctuary and our homes for the arrival of the Christ child. We prepare ourselves also for his coming as Lord of our lives, and for his promised return as the one who makes all things new. In a moment of silent prayer let us quiet our hearts in anticipation of this Advent season.

(Silence)

# Prayer (unison)

Lord Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we have prepared our sanctuary and our homes 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 again 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

**TAULÉ** 



- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
  This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

#### \*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.

## \*Choral Benediction

Blessing Dengler & Dengler

# \*Sending of the Community

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 Royal Highway

J. Weber

## \*Please stand as you are able

We are grateful for those who serve with us today!

Organist/Accompanist: Jerrold Eilander

Music Minister: Dr. Evelyn Grieger

Readers; Rev. Dr. Ryan Sato, Rev. Jeremy Keay, Dawn Stiles, Debbie Benson

Video and Sound Tech: Evan Adnams

Decorating Sanctuary: Carolynne Ross, Debbie Mitchell, Harvey Hiller,

Ken Bellous

Photographer: Gordon Dinwoodie

# **Chrismons-Christ Monograms**



**CHI RHO-**(Ky Ro) Chi Rho is the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. Look at how the letter X forms the shape of a manger to remind us of Christ's birth.



**LAMB-**The Lamb is the symbol of Jesus Christ. (John 1:29) "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." It also reminds us that Christ is the Good Shepherd.



**SHEPHERD'S CROOK-**The Shepherd's Crook or Staff reminds us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for His people and we are invited to do the same. Shepherds were also the first people who were told about the birth of Jesus!



**STAR-**The eight pointed Armenian Star is also called the Bethlehem Star, showing us the way to Jesus, just as it did for the Magi.



**CROSS AND CROWN-**The cross is the symbol of salvation, the crown tells us that Christ is Lord. The faithful are promised the crown of life!



**CROSS ON THE ORB-**The Triumphant Cross shows the earth with the cross on top. It symbolizes Jesus reigns over heaven and earth.



**FISH-** Followers of Christ used the symbol of a fish as a secret sign to know who their friends were. The initials (IXOYC), the Greek word for fish, represented Jesus Christ, God's Son, and the Savior.



**SUN-** Reminds us of the light and mercies of God. Malachi 4:2 says, "the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings."



**CHRISTMAS ROSE-**The White Rose is a symbol for purity. Isaiah also prophesied that one day the desert would blossom as a rose.