

Hanging
OF THE
Greens

Hanging of the Greens - First Sunday in Advent 2025

PRELUDE

The Holly and the Ivy

M. Corl

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

ADVENT INTROIT

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

G. Lee, tr. M. Pope

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

#154 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Unison

Em Bm G/B G Am/C Am G/B D G D Bm G/B C G/B

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Am Em Bm Em Am Am Em B7 Em Bm C D Em
B C G F#

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

D Bm G G Am Am G D G D Em Bm G
B C B

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Am Am G D Em D G G C G Am Em D Em
C B F# B G F#

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION & LORD’S PRAYER**

Oh God of rivers and ice and of all humanity.
You have revealed your holiness in creation.
May your ways be our ways
May we love the way you love
Please sustain us and forgive us.
Lead us into wisdom and away from selfishness
For you are our light, you are our life.
Endlessly.
Amen

LAND AND WATERSHED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

If you stand on the bank of the North Saskatchewan river during these chilling days –you may see fresh – “lily pads of ice” or “Ice pancakes” as they have been called floating by – letting us know that the days of visible flowing river water are almost at an end for the season. They are signals of slow change.

ANTHEM

Invocation for Advent

N. Price/D.

The Meaning of the Service

This service is a beloved tradition in our congregation’s Advent season. Today we embark on a new year of the Christian journey. We prepare ourselves for the joy of Advent and Christmas, knowing that when God came to earth as a human baby, the world was transformed.

The Greens

Trembling aspen, balsam poplar, green ash, paper birch, white spruce, the pine and tamarack together, to adorn the place of God’s sanctuary; celebrating Christ’s arrival in our midst.

SOLO (remain seated)

Sans Day Carol

arr. J. Rutter

Soprano - Adrienne Sitko

The greenery is placed in front

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'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

The flowers are placed

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind;
3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have sung.
with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery - where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right she bore to us a
True man yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

WORDS: German, 16th c.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934);

tr. vs. 3, Harriet Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925)

MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

ES IST EIN ROS'

7.6.7.6.6.7.6.

The Tree & Symbols

“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 the 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)

CAROL (remain seated)

O Christmas Tree

The tree is decorated by the children

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!
Not only green in summer's heat,
But also winter's snow and sleet.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!*

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Of all the trees most lovely;
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Of all the trees most lovely.
Each year you bring to us delight
With brightly shining Christmas light!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Of all the trees most lovely.*

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
We learn from all your beauty;
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
We learn from all your beauty.
Your bright green leaves with festive cheer,
Give hope and strength throughout the year.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
We learn from all your beauty.*

- Ernst Anschütz, adapted from a 16th-century Silesian folk song

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 neighbour 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

Wexford Carol

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

***Prayer (in unison)**

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 (remain seated)
#205 Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

The crèche is placed

Unison

Chords: C7, F/A, Gm/Bb, C, Dm, F, Bb/F, Gm7, C7/G, Bb/D, C/E.

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low-ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay close by me for -

Chords: F2, F, Gm7, Bb/D, C, F.

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil-dren in

Chords: F, Bb/F, Gm7, C7/G, Gm/Bb, Am, Gm7, C/E, F2, F, F/A, Gm7, C7, F.

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my side un - til morn-ing is nigh.
thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav-en, to live with thee there.

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)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Prepare the Way

J. Raney

LITANY

As we enter this season of Advent, we gather with anticipation, waiting for the arrival of the one who brings light into our darkness. This first candle represents the hope we have in Christ. We await the coming of Emmanuel with hearts full of expectation, knowing that he will bring new life to all creation.

Prepare the way of the Lord with hope.

When we feel weary or burdened, we trust in the God who renews our strength and fills our hearts with hope.

Prepare the way of the Lord with hope.

When we see injustice and suffering, we are reminded of the coming Christ who will make things right.

Prepare the way of the Lord with hope.

In our times of struggle, may we remember the promises of God who is with us, guiding us toward a future restoration.

Prepare the way of the Lord with hope.

As we walk this Advent journey, may we be bearers of hope to those around us, proclaiming with our lives that Christ is near.

Prepare the way of the Lord with hope.

The first Advent candle is lit

***CAROL**

#231 Arise, Your Light Has Come!

FESTAL SONG

The tree lights and candles are lit

N.C. A D A D A $\frac{E}{B}$ B7 E

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song! Rise

A $\frac{E}{G\#}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A}{E}$ $\frac{Bm}{D}$ D#m7(b5) E $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D $\frac{A}{C\#}$ Esus E7 A

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (1947-)
 MUSIC: William H. Walter (1825-1893)
 Words © 1992 GIA Publications

FESTAL SONG
 S.M.

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.”

We have prepared our sanctuary and we prepare our hearts for the arrival of the Christ Child. We ready ourselves 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. How might we respond? How might we act? How might we receive?

(Silence for reflection)

Now let us pray together...

Lord Jesus, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we have prepared this Sanctuary & our hearts for your coming. As your light shines in our darkness may the Good News of Christ's birth shine in the dark corners of our world. We pray in the name of the one whose arrival we await. Amen.

*CAROL FOR THE JOURNEY

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

TAULÉ

Unison
D D F# G G/B A7

1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:

D F#m G Em7 A A7

Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -

Bm F#m G C#dim E D F#m A

la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -

Chord progression: Bm, F#m, 1-3 (Em7/G, Em7, A7), 4 (Em7/G, F#m/A, D)

God's truth and jus - tice set ev - ery-bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth. (4) ev - er sets us free.

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.

WORDS: Alberto Taulé (1932-); tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall (1946-)
 MUSIC: Alberto Taulé (1932-); arr. Skinner Chávez-Melo (1944-1992)
 Words and Music © 1993 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica (Admin. OCP Publications)
 Words Tr. © 1995 Madeleine Forell Marshall (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

TAULÉ
 11.11.12.12.

*Choral Benediction Comfort, Comfort

GENEVAN 42

*Sending of the Community

And now may God – the creator of light and life, trees and flowers, creatures and stars – friendship and celebration – justice and mercy, grant us peace. May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, the anticipation of all Creation and the peace of the Christ Child. Amen

*Congregational Amen

POSTLUDE

Prepare the Way, O Zion

J. Weber

***Please stand as you are able**

We are grateful for those who serve with us today!

FBC Congregation, Choir, Ministry Staff
 Readers – Jack Barker, Dawn Stiles, Matt Barker, Caitlin Hart
 Acolytes – Stan Borley, Ellie Barker
 Decorations – Carolynne Ross
 Video & Sound Technician – Evan Adnams

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FBC Ministry Team

Rev. Jeremy Keay, Minister of Youth & Outreach
 Dawn Stiles, Minister of Children & Families
 Dr. Evelyn Grieger, Minister of Music
 Jerrold Eilander, organist / accompanist

Tree Symbols



Chi Rho – *(pronounced ky ro) Chi Rho are 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.*



Cross on the Orb – *This symbol is the earth with the cross on top. It shows that Christ gave himself for the whole world.*



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



Christmas Rose – *The White Rose is a symbol for hope and new beginnings. It is often associated with Christ's resurrection. Isaiah prophesied that one day the desert would blossom as a rose.*



Fish – *followers of Christ used the symbol of a fish as a secret sign to know who their friends were. "Ick-thoose", initials for the Greek word fish, represent Jesus Christ, God's Son, and 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."*



Cross and Crown – *The cross is the symbol of salvation, the crown tells us that Christ is Lord.*



Star of Bethlehem – *This is the Bethlehem Star, showing us the way to Jesus, just as it did for the Magi.*