

hanging of the Greens

Byars-Cobbs Memorial
United Methodist Church



November 28, 2010

HANGING OF THE GREENS

First Sunday in Advent

Color: Blue

November 28, 2010

Prelude

Call to Worship "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Refrain) Choir

*Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" v. 1,2 196

*Congregational Greetings

Announcements

Congregational Celebrations and Concerns

Morning Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology

Special Music "Of The Father's Love Begotten" Eddie Sheffield

INTRODUCTION (read responsively) Rev. Griffith

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

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

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

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

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

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

Glory to God in the highest!

GOD WILL SEND A RIGHTEOUS KING

Gloria Surber

Jeremiah 23:5-6

⁵Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

⁶*In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

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 branch as a sign of Christ, who reigns as King for ever, and whose coming, in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

THE PROPHET DECLARES A CHILD WILL BE BORN Kathy Griffith
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

²*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*

⁶*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

⁷*Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

Because the needles of pine and fir trees appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last for ever.

Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah.

Therefore, we hang this wreath of evergreens shaped in a circle, to signify the eternal reign of Jesus, the Christ.

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v. 5,6,7 211

THE FOURTH SERVANT SONG Marian Bailey
Isaiah 53:1-6

¹*Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*

²*For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*

³*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

⁴*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

⁵*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

⁶*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

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 suggested 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 hang the holly and ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our Savior.

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

Eddie Sheffield

John 1:1-5, 9-14

¹*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

²*The same was in the beginning with God.*

³*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

⁴*In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

⁵*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

⁹*That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

¹⁰*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

¹¹*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

Come, Lord Jesus.

Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath,

May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Erin and Debi Adair

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – HOPE

Scripture: Luke 21:29-36

LEADER: Keep awake, stay alert. The Kingdom of God is near.

PEOPLE: WE ARE GOD'S PARTNERS IN HOPE.

LEADER: The days are coming when God will fulfill the promise.

PEOPLE: WE ARE GOD'S PARTNERS IN HOPE.

LEADER: A righteous branch will spring up and will bring forth justice.

PEOPLE: WE ARE GOD'S PARTNERS IN HOPE.

LEADER: What do you hope for this advent?

LEADER AND PEOPLE: AS WE LIGHT THIS FIRST ADVENT CANDLE, THE CANDLE OF HOPE, HOPE IS COMING; IT IS BEING BORN INTO THE WORLD.

AMEN.

*HYMN

"The First Noel" v.1,2,5

245

Benediction
Choral Response “Three-Fold Amen” Choir
Postlude

*Congregation Standing

Announcements

Our choir will practice this evening at 7:00 pm.

Bible Study will be Wednesday, December 1, at 10:00 am.

The United Methodist Women will meet Wednesday, December 1 at 11:00 am.

The Kidz Klub will meet Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

Remember our regular Sunday School Breakfast next Sunday, December 5, at 9:45 am. We will be in the Christmas Spirit with Christmas decorations and Christmas carols. Plan now to join us for this time of good food, fun, and fellowship.

The *Griffith Open House* will be Saturday, December 11, beginning at 1:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

We will have a Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 10:00 pm.

Our Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 26, during the Morning Worship Service.

We are continuing to accept donations for our annual **Children's Christmas Fund**. To date we have collected **\$375.00** for this very worthy cause.

Report for Sunday, November 21, 2010

Sunday School Attendance	13
Sunday School Offering	\$20.00
Worship Service Attendance	47
Worship Service Offering	\$1239.00
Children's Christmas Fund	\$250.00
Ham Fund	\$75.00