

 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 30, 2014

Following Christ from City Center

Prelude

Instrumental ensemble

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Phil Thraillkill

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

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

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

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

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

People: By hearing again the words of the prophets, through spoken word and song.

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

People: Glory to God in the Highest!

*** Processional Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(verses 1,2,3, and verse 6 at bottom of page 3)

*** Common Prayer**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

O God, our heavenly Father, the whole world rejoices at the coming of Your Son. Everywhere around us we see signs of His coming. As we gather in this evening hour, as your family, draw us closer to You; fill our hearts with anticipation and longing for Your Son's return, and make His Spirit very present in our hearts tonight. May the life symbolized in the hanging of these greens tonight be a sign of the greater life we find in Him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Carol

People, Look East
Chancel Choir, handbells, drum, violin

Zebulon M. Highben

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Love, the Guest, the Rose, the Star, the Lord, is on the way!

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -*
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 * 4. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra - dle,

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
 Jesus to thee be all glory given.
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain.*

Paraments

Carol *All My Heart Again Rejoices* arr. David Lasky
Chancel Choir and organ

All my heart again rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing, till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.

Hark! A voice from yonder manger, softly thus calls to us, "Flee from woe and danger;
come and see; from all that grieves you, you are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

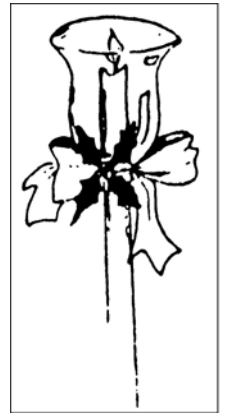
Come, then, let us hasten yonder; here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder;
love him who with love is yearning; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.

Candles

Anthem *Morning Star* Moravian Christmas Hymn
Celebration Singers, Chancel Choir, organ

Morning Star, O cheering sight! Ere you came how dark earth's night!
Jesus mine, in me shine; in me shine, Jesus mine,
fill my heart with light divine.

Morning Star, your glory bright far excels the sun's clear light.
Jesus be, constantly, constantly Jesus be
more than thousand suns to me.



The Advent Wreath

Carol *Come, Light of the World* Shaffermann and Page
Celebration Singers and piano

O come, O come, Emmanuel and bring God's light to Israel.
Come, come, Emmanuel, come ransom Israel.
Stumblin' in darkness, cryin' in sadness. Turn on the light!

Come, come, Emmanuel, come ransom Israel.
Turn nighttime to daytime, moonlight to sunlight.
Come, light of the world!

Arise, shine! Shine, shine like the sun.
Arise, shine! Shine, Holy One.

Come, come, Emmanuel, come ransom Israel.
Stumblin' in darkness, cryin' in sadness.
Come light of the world! Come light of the world!



Evergreen Wreaths and Poinsettias

Carol

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
Chancel Choir and piano

Ron Davis

Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger.
There He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a child in such a place; can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race, who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth; wise men sought and found Him.
Heavens star shone brightly forth, glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing.
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger.
There He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story.
Praise His name in all the earth. Hail the King of Glory.

Holly & Ivy

Carol

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt
Chancel Choir, piano, flute

Craig Courtney

Where shepherds lately knelt, and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
but there is room and welcome there for me,
but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:
sweet new-born Babe, how frail and in a manger bed:
a still small voice to cry one day for me,
a still small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me,
a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned
its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
to die, to live, and not alone for me?
to die, to live, and not alone for me.



Chrismon Tree

Carol

Saw You Never in the Twilight
Chancel Choir, organ, flute

Tom Porter

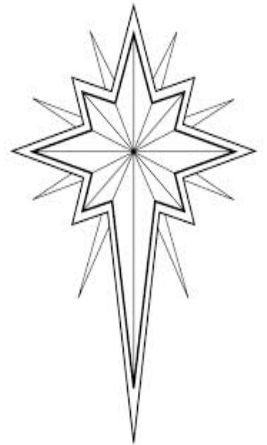
Saw you never in the twilight, when the sun had left the skies,
Up in heaven the clear stars shining through the gloom, like silver eyes?

So of old the wise men, watching, saw a little stranger star,
And they knew the King was given, and they followed it from far.

Heard you never of the story how they crossed the desert wild,
Journeyed on by plain and mountain till they found the holy Child?

How they opened all their treasures kneeling to the infant King;
Gave the gold and fragrant incense, gave the myrrh and offering?

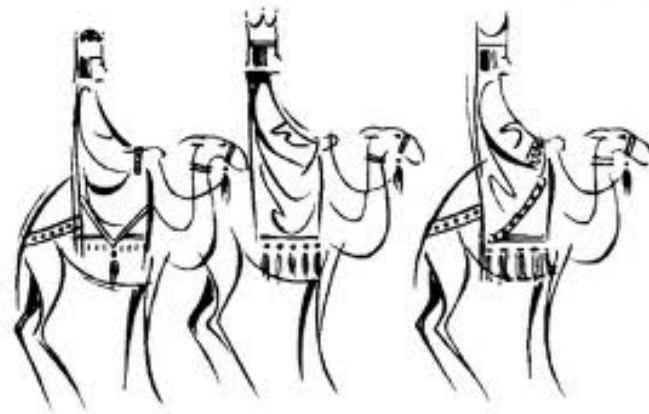
Know ye not that lowly Baby was the bright and morning Star?
He who came to light the Gentiles, and the darkened isles afar?
And we, too, may seek his cradle; there our hearts' best treasures bring;
Love and faith, and true devotion for our Savior, God, and King.



Gifts

Carol

We Three Kings



We Three Kings

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and

gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,
 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia,

moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

The Nativity

Carol

Angels From the Realms of Glory
Chancel Choir, piano, violin, flute

arr. Dan Forrest

Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great Desire of Nations, Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One!
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

The Christmas Story from The Gospel according to Luke

Pastor Phil Thrailkill

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High
Chancel Choir, and organ

Ron Davis

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plain,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strain.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria! Gloria!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why your jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria! Gloria!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him, whose birth the angels sing:
Come adore on bended knee Christ the babe, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria! Gloria!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Collect For Advent (Unison)

Pastor Phil Thrailkill

Gracious God, Your vision of peace and wholeness comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope. Kindle our hearts that we may be a hopeful people. Keep us from growing weary of waiting lest we miss the glory of your appearing. Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks an new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night, when Christ was born,
O night, divine! O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, His power and glory evermore proclaim.
Behold your King! Before Him bend!

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright 'round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild, O sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Choir and congregation:

**Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glory streams from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord at Thy birth.**

Choir only:

Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.
O holy night.

*Blessing

Pastor Phil Thrailkill

*Postlude

* Please stand as you are able

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tonight marks the twenty-seventh Hanging of the Greens Service. Many people have contributed to the beauty of this service tonight and in the past. Main Street United Methodist Church is blessed by friends who lovingly share their gifts. From the beautifully handcrafted pew end candleholders to the graceful needlework and the delicately-crafted Chrismons, for the gifts of time and talent shared, we are thankful. Additional thanks to this year's Hanging of the Greens Chairperson, Debbie Tharpe.

Reader: Kim Clark

The Hangers of The Greens

Keaton Alexander	Julia Baker	Emily Camp	Joe Hartung
Janie Hughes	Jay Logan	Schuyler McGinnis	Cecilia McGinnis
MaryAshlynn Perkey	Marisa Rogers	Josh Sluder	Hampton Warner

Poinsettias

The poinsettias in the chancel area are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Cullen (Sonny) Hines for his birthday by his wife, Norma Hines

The Children

Ella Bassett	Evan Lawrence	Richie Pinckney	Witt Smith
Hannah Crooks	Rebekah Lomax	Vivi Joy Pinckney	William Rowland
Spence Hagood	Trace Meredith	Madalin Radcliffe	Sanders Rogers
Libby Hartung	Tucker Meredith	Jarrett Smith	

Celebration Singers

Ella Bassett	Rebekah Lomax
Hannah Crooks	Richie Pinckney
Libby Hartung	Vivi Joy Pinckney
Claire Leuthner-Barrinaeu	Madalin Radcliffe
Daniel Leuthner-Barrineau	William Rowland

Instrumentalists

Rhonda McGinnis, flute	Matt Treaster, violin	Lori Thraikill, handbells
Laura Johnston, clarinet	Abbie Bagwell, viola	Lindsey Gardner, handbells
Tyler Boyd, horn	Benjamin Holder, cello	Schuyler McGinnis, handbells
	Brooke Black, piano	Josh Harrington, piano, organ, handbells

Chancel Choir

Larry Moore, Director

Tiffany Atkinson	Brab Crooks	Myra Greene	Rhonda McGinnis	Tommy Rambo
Kathy Bailey	Keith Dover	Kathryn Knauer	Dennis Moore	Lee Robirds
Carol Blosser	Steve Driskill	Bayard Lindell	Martha Moore	Colby Tharpe
Dick Blosser	Pam Faulkner	Patricia Lindell	Ann Pendergrass	Gladys Turner
Emmie Burns	Beverly Hall	Marilyn Mack	Pat Poole	Barry Wilson
Lyn Cothran	Lindsey Garner	Jane Marshall	Pamela Poulin	David Westberry

Reception Following the Service

All are invited for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

Through the centuries, Christians have observed a time of waiting and expectation before celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The celebration of Christmas for Christians is such an important part of the church calendar that it is easy to assume it has always been. But the major Christian festival for the early church was Easter. Around the fourth century, Christmas became part of the Christian calendar and by the year 336, December 25 was generally established as the date of Jesus' birth. Soon afterwards, church leaders began to feel the need for a period of preparation leading up to the actual celebration of the Christ Child's birth - thus we have the Advent season. The Advent season is a time for reflection and preparation, but its mood is joyful. One of the ways we mark the start of Advent and the new church year is with the Hanging of the Greens service.

The observance of the Hanging of the Greens is an old English custom of decorating one's home with evergreens and other festive trappings for Advent and Christmas. Many of the decorations and customs are derived from ancient customs and legends. It is the hope that putting these customs in the context of a worship service on the first Sunday in Advent will help set the tone of your own personal worship and celebrations.



Scurry Tharp '03

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Greenwood, South Carolina 29646

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