



THE FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL

Hangíng of the Greens

A Service of Decoration

SUNDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 8, 2024

SIX O'CLOCK

FOR SANCTUARY DECORATIONS

Meta Herrick Carlson

*Evergreen, candlelight, and crèche
come out of storage,
dusty remnants polished clean,
and the space awakens with
simple symbols of what can't wait—
the God who flourishes,
who shines in the darkness,
who makes a home among us,
declaring our ordinary
good enough all over again.*

THE PRELUDE

Evening Bells
Brass Ensemble
Maureen Howell

“Shades of Forest Green” — Tim Waugh, arr.

“Angels We Have Heard on High” — Canadian Brass, arr.

“He Is Born, How Great Our Joy!” — Brenda Austin, arr.

“The First Noel”— Canadian Brass, arr.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” — Brenda Austin, arr.

“Introduction and Finale on *Creator of the Stars of Night*” — David Cherwien

THE INTROIT

“Creator of the Stars of Night”
Sarum Plainsong, 9th century

Sanctuary Choir
Niya Petkova, solo

Creator of the stars of night,
your people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you, hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came, but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
all things on earth with one accord
like those in heav’n shall call you Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

Words: Latin hymn, 9th cent., tr. John Mason Neale, 1851
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, 9th cent.

THE PROCLAMATION

Christopher Chapman

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Lloyd Larson, arr.

ADESTE FIDELES

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Verse 1 (All, *seated*)

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

***O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

Verse 2 (Sanctuary Choir)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" (*Refrain*)

*Verse 3 (All, *standing as able*)

**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*)

Come, let us adore him, worship and adore him.
Come, and worship Christ, the newborn King!

Words: John F. Wade; tr. F. Oakeley, 1841; James Montgomery, 1816
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, John F. Wade, 1751, and REGENT SQUARE, H. Smart, 1866

THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE INVOCATION

THE ANTHEM

“Before the Marvel of This Night”

Sanctuary Choir

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night,
adoring, fold your wings and bow;
then tear the sky apart with light
and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
that fear and death and sorrow cease:
sing peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace;
sing peace; sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song:
this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng,
in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,
a teasing taste of what they miss:
sing bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss;
sing bliss; sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,
our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown,
now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love
that rules our universe above:
sing love; sing love; sing God is love;
sing love; sing God is love!

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1981

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

Michael Hood

THE SANCTUARY GREENS

THE READING

Leah Reed

THE CAROLS

“Deck the Halls”

**Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa la la la la la la la la.**

Traditional English

“The Holly and the Ivy”

**The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.
O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing the choir.**

Traditional English

“O Christmas Tree”

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy leaves are so unchanging.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy leaves are so unchanging.
Not only green when summer's here,
But also when it's cold and drear.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree
Thy leaves are so unchanging.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can teach a lesson.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can teach a lesson.
That constant faith and hope sublime
Give strength and comfort all the time.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can teach a lesson.**

Traditional German

THE PULPIT AND CHOIR LOFT GREENS

THE READING

Lynn Lingafelt

THE CAROLS

“With Great Anticipation”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN



1. With great an - ti - ci - pa - tion we gath - er in this place
2. We bring the out - side in - side: the spruce, the fir, the pines.
3. The bran - ches bent in cir - cles, the wreath's un - end - ing form.



to bring our de - co - ra - tions to bright - en up this space.
The gar - lands are with bows tied and laced with i - vy vines.
The songs and hymns of Ad - vent an - nounce God's Son is born.



With can - dles all a - round us we sing the songs of Christ - mas.
Fresh hol - ly and poin - set - tias brought down the aisles be - fore us.
The star is hung to guide us: a - head, a - bove, be - side us.



Pre - par - ing for the light, we hang the greens to - night.

Words: R.G. Huff, 2022, alt.

Music: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697

“Oh Come, Little Children”

**Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all,
to Bethlehem's stable, in Bethlehem's stall,
and see with rejoicing this glorious sight,
Our Father in heaven has sent us this night.**

Words: Christoph von Schmid, 1794

Music: IHR KINDERLEIN KOMMET, Johann Schulz, 1794

THE ANTHEMS

Pre-K/Kindergarten Choir

“That Special Night”

Joanne and Milton LeDoux

Stars were shining bright on that special night
in Bethlehem the night that Jesus was born.
Shepherds kept their watch . . . Angels sang their song . . .
Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

“Celebrate the Birth”

Cindy Berry

Celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, celebrate the birth of the newborn King,
Glory to God in the highest, hear the angels sing.

Go and share the news of the newborn King,

Glory, glory, peace on earth, good will to all. Jesus Christ is born.

*THE ADVENT PRAYER (responsive)

Michael Hood

LEADER: Almighty God, who, having created all worlds and humankind, has
profoundly pitied us;

PEOPLE: **Who has come to us that we might be saved, not of our merit,
but of your unquenchable love;**

LEADER: Look on us who worship in comfort, in light and warmth,

PEOPLE: **In health and prosperity,**

LEADER: In pride and in presumption.

PEOPLE: **For, having all glory,**

LEADER: You became incarnate in the dishonor of a defeated line of kings;

PEOPLE: **Having all riches,**

LEADER: You became incarnate in the poverty of the working class;

PEOPLE: **Having all illumination,**

LEADER: You became incarnate in the darkness of night and obscurity;

PEOPLE: **Having all wisdom,**

LEADER: You became incarnate in the confounding simplicity of a child. Help
us to recognize our shame, our poverty, our darkness, our
foolishness, that we may know our need of you.

PEOPLE: **And then, become incarnate in us.**

LEADER: Let your servants grow in peace, O Lord, full of the vision of your
salvation, ready to make it plain before all the faces of the earth.

ALL: We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ANTHEMS

“Glory to God” Elementary Choir
Giovanni Pergolesi, 1736 Cady and Becky Mercer, flutes

Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to his people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace and goodwill to all.

Words: Luke 2:14, adapt. Music: from *Stabat Mater*,
Giovanni Pergolesi, Michael Burkhardt, ed.

“Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting” Elementary Choir
Dorothy Christopherson Hayes Strickland, solo
Sanctuary Choir

Come, Lord Jesus, we are waiting,
be our guest this Advent day.
Longing hearts watch eagerly
for Jesus, who comes in love.

Come, Lord Jesus, we are ready,
be our guest this Advent day.
Loving hearts we have prepared
for Jesus, who comes in peace.

Come, Lord Jesus, we are telling,
be our guest this Advent day.
Joyful voices sing in praise
for Jesus, who comes in joy.

All:

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and suitable for a children's choir. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Come, Lord Je - sus, we are pray - ing,
Be our Guest this Ad - vent day. Hope - ful hearts find
room for you. Come, Je - sus, and be our Guest.

Words: Helen Stensrud, 1992

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

THE READING

Leah Reed

THE MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Beth McCollum, violin

“Evening Song”

Maureen Howell, piano

Paul Halley

Tanner Winchester, organ

SHINE IN THE DARK

Luci Shaw

*From a dark dust of stars
kindled one, a prick of light.
Burn! Small candle star,
burn in the black night.

In the still, hushed heart
(shadowed as a black night)
shine! Savior newly born,
shine till the heart's light.*

THE ANTHEM

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Youth Choir

Mark A. Miller

Claire Carothers, solo

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born to save, born to heal, come, O Savior, come.
While we wait, while we pray, come, Savior come.
hope of all heaven and earth, come, Jesus come.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744, adapt.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

THE READING

Lynn Lingafelt

THE ANTHEM

“Night of Silence” Youth and Sanctuary Choirs
John Ferguson, arr.

Cold are the people, winter of life.
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night.
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise.
Fire of hope is our only warmth.
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light.
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly
Rumors of a dawn so embracing.
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar.
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son’s love.
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

Words and Music: Daniel Kantor, 1984

All:

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
‘Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1816
Music: Franz Xaver Grüber, 1818

THE PROCESSION INTO THE WORLD

***THE CAROL**

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: Lowell Mason, 1848, after G.F. Handel

***THE BENEDICTION**

Christopher Chapman

***THE POSTLUDE**

Tanner Winchester, organ

“Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts” from *Christmas Oratorio*
Camile Saint-Saëns

*The congregation may stand.

THE CHRISTMAS LIFE

Wendy Cope

*Bring in a tree, a young Norwegian spruce,
Bring hyacinths that rooted in the cold.
Bring winter jasmine as its buds unfold –
Bring the Christmas life into this house.*

*Bring red and green and gold, bring things that shine,
Bring candlesticks and music, food and wine.
Bring in your memories of Christmas past.
Bring in your tears for all that you have lost.*

*Bring in the shepherd boy, the ox and ass,
Bring in the stillness of an icy night,
Bring in the birth, of hope and love and light.
Bring the Christmas life into this house.*

PARTICIPANTS

Ministers: Christopher Chapman,
Michael Hood, Warren Howell, Lynn Lingafelt, Leah Reed
Maureen Howell, organist
Carolyn Dickens, general director
Royce Willmschen, audio support
Chad Reed, lighting

Music Leaders:

Pre-K/Kindergarten Choir.....Amy Galvan, Kimberly Taylor, Hollis Yelverton

Elementary Choir Maria Childrey, Diane Ellis, Ginger Graves,
Rhonda Lowe, Becky Mercer, Sarah Catherine Rhodes

Youth ChoirRhonda Lowe, Wyatt Yelverton

Evening Bells..... Anna Anderson

Instrumentalists:

Mark Beamish, trumpet
Lisa Burn, trumpet
Maria Childrey, piano
Dennis Ellis, timpani

Rhonda Lowe, percussion
Beth McCollum, violin
Becky Mercer, flute
Cady Mercer, flute & piccolo

Rachel Niketopoulus, horn
Wes Parker, trombone
Chad Reed, percussion
Tanner Winchester, organ

Banner Bearers..... Chase Helms, Jeff Mercer

Decorations CeCe Bisette, Jackson Bisette, Jennifer Bisette, Myra Brickell,
Sterling Brickell, Anne Bullard, Linda Carothers, Sam Carothers, Anne Cooke, Mary Lou Dodd
Ginger Graves, Tyson Graves, Chase Helms, Jess Helms, John Hobson, Shirley Hobson,
Wiley Jones, Alan Kinsey, Janet Kinsey, Jeff Mercer, Noel Morris, Jonathan Pegram,
Lacey Pegram, Bobby Phillips, Hope Phillips, Nancy Moore Phillips,
Mary Powell Rhodes, Ann Rollins, Jeanie Scott, Alan Taylor, Kimberly Taylor,
Members of the Wilderness Class, Hollis Yelverton, Wyatt Yelverton

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For Sanctuary Decorations, by Meta Herrick Carlson from “Ordinary Blessings for the Christmas Season Prayers, Poems, and Meditations,” 2023, Broadleaf Books, an imprint of 1517 Media; *Shine in the Dark*, by Luci Shaw from “Accompanied by Angels: Poems of the Incarnation,” 2006, Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.; *The Christmas Life*, by Wendy Cope from “The Young Oxford Book of Christmas Poems,” 2000, Oxford University Press.

Advent and Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 15

- 11:00 Advent III worship service
- 5:00 Vesper Service/Children’s Christmas Story

Sunday, December 22

- 11:00 Advent IV worship service
- 1:30 Japanese Baptist Church worship service
- 3:00 JBC Christmas reception

Tuesday, December 24

- 5:00 Christmas Eve candlelight communion service

Sunday, December 29

- 11:00 Christmas I worship service

First Baptist Church

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