



THE FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL

Hangíng of the Greens

A Service of Decoration

SUNDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 7, 2025

SIX O'CLOCK

*So now is come our joyful feast,
Let every man be jolly;
Each room with ivy leaves is dressed,
And every post with holly.
And whilst we thus inspired sing,
Let all the streets with echoes ring;
Woods, and hills, and everything
Bear witness we are merry.*

— George Wither (1588–1667)

THE PRELUDE

Tanner Winchester
Instrumental Ensembles
Evening Bells
Maureen Howell

THE INTROIT

“Gaudete” Youth and Sanctuary Choirs
Renaissance Carol
Robert J. Batastini, arr.

THE PROCLAMATION

Christopher Chapman

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Angels We Have Heard On High”

GLORIA, John A. Behnke, setting

1. All (*seated*)

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

[*Refrain*] ***Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

2. **See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, sing with us our Savior's birth.**

[*Refrain*]

3. Choir:

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

All: [*Refrain*]

4. **Come to Bethlehem, and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

[*Refrain*]

Words: Traditional French Carol
Translation: James Chadwick, 1860
Music: Traditional French Carol

THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE INVOCATION

THE ANTHEM

“Brightest and Best”
Southern Harmony, 1835
Shawn Kirchner, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

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

“Gloria”

Elizabeth Charles

“Ring, O Ring the Bells”

Claire Russell

***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

“Long, Long Ago”

Elementary Choir

Gary Alan Smith

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Elementary

(from *Christmas Oratorio*)

and Sanctuary Choirs

J.S. Bach

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

THE READING

Leah Reed

THE REFLECTION

“Sinfonia” Instrumental Ensemble
(from *Christmas Oratorio*)
J.S. Bach

*What sweeter music can we bring
Than a bright carol, for to sing
The birth of this, our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!*

*The darling of the world is come
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome Him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart.*

*Which we will give Him, and bequeath
The Holly, and this Ivy wreath,
To do Him honour, who's our King,
And Lord of all this reveling.*

—Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

THE ANTHEM

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
Mark A. Miller

Youth Choir
Cady Mercer, solo

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

THE READING

Lynn Lingafelt

THE ANTHEM

“Peace, Peace”
Rick and Sylvia Powell

Choirs

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! 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.**

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

THE PROCLAMATION

Michael Hood

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

*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 Maria Childrey, Amy Galvan,
Kimberly Taylor, Hollis Yelverton
Elementary Choir Diane Ellis, Ginger Graves, Rhonda Lowe,
Becky Mercer, Sarah Catherine Rhodes
Youth Choir Rhonda Lowe, Wyatt Yelverton
Evening Bells Anna Anderson

Instrumentalists:

Mark Beamish, trumpet	Asher Helms, percussion	Cady Mercer, flute & piccolo
Becca Clemens, trombone	Rhonda Lowe, percussion	Will Mercer, bass
Maria Childrey, piano	Gabriel Mairson, horn	John Morrison, trumpet
Dennis Ellis, timpani	Beth McCollum, violin	Therese West, violin
Luke Foster, percussion	Becky Mercer, flute	Tanner Winchester, organ

Banner Bearers Chase Helms, Jeff Mercer

Decorations Denise Aslett, 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, Jonathan Pegram, Lacey Pegram, Bobby Phillips, Hope Phillips,
Nancy Moore Phillips, Mary Powell Rhodes, Jeanie Scott, Alan Taylor, Kimberly Taylor,
Members of the Wilderness Class, Hollis Yelverton, Wyatt Yelverton

Sound Royce Willmschen

Lighting Chad Reed

Advent and Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 14

11:00 Advent III worship service: *Hodie! (This Day)* — Z. Randall Stroope

Sunday, December 21

11:00 Advent IV worship service

1:30 Japanese Baptist Church worship service

3:00 JBC Christmas reception

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 Christmas Eve candlelight communion service

Sunday, December 28

11:00 Christmas I worship service

First Baptist Church

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