

# THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

## LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

PRELUDE *WACHET AUF, RUFT UNS DIE STIMME* J.S. BACH

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT *O COME, O COME EMMANUEL* ARR. DAN BIRD

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O COME, O COME EMMANUEL* 211

- O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*
- O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show And cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*
- O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times once gave the law In cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*
- O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, An ensign of thy people be; Before thee rulers silent fall; All peoples of thy mercy call. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP REV. LUCAS S. TRIBBLE

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 eternal Christ?  
**People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**  
Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?  
**People: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.**  
Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?  
**People: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.**  
Leader: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.  
**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

\*INVOCATION  
Leader: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Leader: Let us pray together.  
**All: Eternal God, in your providence you made all ages a preparation for the kingdom of your Son. Make ready our hearts for the brightness of your glory and the fullness of your blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (8:45) THE BAILEY FAMILY  
Justin, Mandy, Maggie, and Jack

(11:00) THE INGRAM FAMILY  
Michael, Allison, Sarah Kate, Emily, and Ellie

RESPONSE *ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH* REFRAIN  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

CONCERNS OF A CARING FELLOWSHIP REV. BEN A. McDAVID

PASTORAL AND LORD'S PRAYER REV. BEN A. McDAVID  
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. For ever. Amen.

OFFERTORY *LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE* ARR. GUSTAV HOLT  
Cathedral Choir  
Susan Cooper, Soprano  
*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood; he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away. At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

PRESENTATION OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY VENI EMMANUEL  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

THE SANCTUARY EVERGREENS JOHN McWILLIAMS

CAROL HYMN *COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS* 196  
*1. 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.*  
*2. 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.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE WINDOW CANDLES

ANTHEM *CAROL OF THE STAR* ARR. DONALD MOORE  
Youth Choir  
Meg Griffin, Director of Youth Choir

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA JOHN McWILLIAMS

ANTHEM *GOD'S GIFT TO US* GLEN AND SUSAN EERNISSE  
Children's Choir  
Sarah Fell, Director of Children's Choirs

THE CHRISMON TREES JOHN McWILLIAMS

After hanging their Chrismon Trees, all children ages 3 through 1st Grade are invited to exit with Glenda Argo and Renee Norman, Directors of Children's Ministries, to Wesley Hall for Children's Church.

**ANTHEM**

**O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH!**

**ARR. HOWARD HELVEY**

Cathedral Choir

*O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away. Dear Savior haste; Come, come to earth, dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away. You come in peace and meekness, and lowly will your cradle be; all clothed in human weakness shall we your Godhead see. Dear Savior haste; Come, come to earth, dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away. O Christ, whom nations sigh for whom priest and prophet long foretold, come break the captive fetters; redeem the longlost fold. Dear Savior haste; Come, come to earth, dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.*

**BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREES**

Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May these trees, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**ISAIAH 64:1-9**

**SERMON**

**DOWN TO EARTH: SHAPING US**

**DR. JAY D. COOPER**

**THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS**

**JOHN McWILLIAMS**

From the beginning of Christmas celebrations, gift giving has been a part of the season. The Wise Men gave out of their treasures, and the Shepherds gave of themselves. Both express the gift of God in giving Christ as the savior of the world. We invite you to bring forward your gifts for the needy children in our community and place them under the Chrismon trees during the singing of the following carol.

**\*HYMN OF INVITATION**

**I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT**

**206**

*1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world; The star of my life is Jesus.*

*Refrain:  
In him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God; Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*2. I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.  
Refrain*

*3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.  
Refrain*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION**

**REV. GILLIAN L. WALTERS**

Dear Lord of us all, accept these gifts of decoration, and also our gifts of love and warmth and caring; and spread throughout all this wintry world the promise of recurring spring. **Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**BE NEAR ME LORD JESUS**

**ARR. LESTER SEIGEL**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**NOEL SUISSE, GRAND JEU ET DUO**

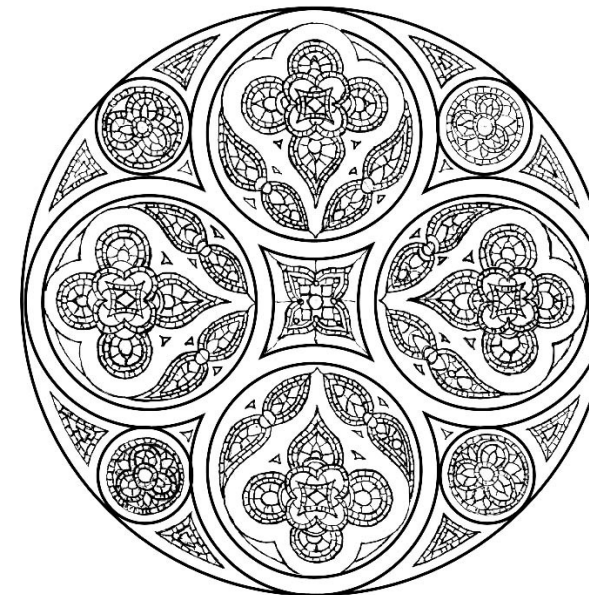
**LOUIS CLUADE D'AQUIN**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*The chancel arrangement is given to the glory of God by the Worship Committee and the Flower Guild.*

**POINSETTIAS**

The church is offering the opportunity to place poinsettias in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one. Poinsettias will be placed in the chancel area on Sunday, December 20th. The names of those persons being remembered or honored, along with the name of the giver, will be listed in the worship bulletin on Sunday, December 20th. Please visit [www.fumcmontgomery.org/poinsettias](http://www.fumcmontgomery.org/poinsettias), for more information or to order.



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

**NOVEMBER 29, 2020  
HANGING OF THE GREENS**

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

**Dr. Jay D. Cooper**  
Senior Minister

**Reverend Lucas S. Tribble**  
Associate Minister

**Reverend Gillian L. Walters**  
Associate Minister

**Reverend G. Charles Kendall**  
Associate Minister

**Reverend Ben A. McDavid**  
Associate Minister

**Dr. James H. Seay**  
Director of Music

**Dr. Karl K. Stegall**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Bishop David W. Graves**  
Bishop Alabama-West Florida  
Conference

**Dr. Joshua H. Coble**  
Organist/Assistant Director of Music

**Dr. Jeff L. Wilson**  
District Superintendent  
Montgomery-Prattville District