

The Story of Our Decorations

Candles and Light

We light candles in the sanctuary because we are reminded that Jesus Christ said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Our candles are white to remind us of the completely pure and entirely unselfish love of God, who gave His only Son for our salvation. The lights remind us of God and his unlimited love -- that He sent Jesus to light our paths so that we might see how to live life abundantly, with hope and joy, with peace and love.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias are the traditional plant used to decorate homes and churches during Christmas. The bright, blood-red poinsettia became the most popular of all Christmas flowers. Its tropical red leaves are not blossoms--the flowers are small yellow clusters at the center. Dr. Joel Poinsett, of Mexico, discovered the poinsettia in 1828.

A Mexican legend says that when blood fell on the earth from the broken heart of a young girl, a poinsettia grew from each drop. We can be reminded of the blood the Christmas infant came to shed for us. The plant's star-shaped formation of red leaves reminds us of the star which came to shine over Bethlehem.

Holly

In ancient times, the holly was considered the symbol of Christ's passion: its prickly leaves suggested the crown of thorns, its red berries the blood of the Savior, and its bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we lay a branch of holly on the altar, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our Savior, ever mindful of the great price He paid for our salvation.

Evergreen, Pine, and Fir

Because the needles of the pine and fir trees do not die each season like the leaves of most trees, the ancients saw them as symbols of things that last forever. The prophet Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah, and so we hang wreaths of evergreens shaped in circles, having no ends, to signify the eternal kingdom of Jesus, the Christ.

Cedar Tree

In ancient times, the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It signified immortality and was used for purification. The cedar branch on the altar is a symbol of Christ, Who reigns as King forever, and Whose coming, in justice and righteousness, will purify us.



November 28, 2021



Thomas H. Allen - Senior Pastor

Office Phone (919) 639-6114



HANGING OF THE GREEN

November 28, 2021

Preparing To Worship

Prelude	<i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"</i>	Lee McLean
Chiming of the Hour		Ashton & Ember St. John
Welcome		Thomas Allen
Hymn	<i>"O Come All Ye Faithful" (verses 1 & 3)</i>	No. 89
Call to Worship - Litany Of The Green		DJ Byers

Pastor: We come today to prepare this house of worship.

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

Pastor: With poinsettias, which symbolize His shed blood, and branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

People: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

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

People: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Savior?

Pastor: With branches of holly and ivy, symbolizing His passion, death, and resurrection.

People: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

Pastor: By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah, the Savior.

All: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved. Glory to God in the highest!

Invocation DJ Byers

Preparing God's House

Presentation of the Poinsettias		ABC Children
Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope		Davis Family Tony, Mandi, Dalton, and Brooke
Presentation of the Holly	Isaiah 53:1-6	Kathy Baker Myra Fulmer
Special Music	<i>"Holly & Ivy"</i>	Handbells
Presentation of the Evergreen, Pine, and Fir	Isaiah 9:6-7	Michele Gardner Shelly Vahue
Special Music	<i>"Lo, How A Rose"</i>	Barbara Hudson

Preparing Our Hearts

Children's Sermon		Kim East
Anthem	<i>"What A Glorious Night"</i>	Praise Group
Sermon	"HOPE WORTH WAITING FOR" Jeremiah 33: 10-11, 14-16	Thomas Allen
Lighting of the Chrismon Tree		Donna Denning
Hymn	<i>"O Christmas Tree"</i>	(see insert)
Benediction		Thomas Allen
Postlude	<i>"As With Gladness Men Of Old"</i>	Lee McLean Barbara Hudson

Screen Operator ~ Linda Young **Sound Board Operator** ~ Eric Springle
Camera Operator ~ Trey Tripp