

Hanging of the Green

A Service for the Beginning of Advent



First Baptist Church
Lumberton, North Carolina
December 3, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Hangings of the Green

A Service for the Beginning of Advent

The season of Advent recalls the long years of waiting experienced by God's people in exile, praying for the coming of the promised Messiah. It is a season of hopeful, anxious anticipation as we prepare our hearts and lives for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

Prelude/Gathering Music Youth Bells

The First Noel

Welcome & Invocation Rev. Josh Owens

Call to Worship Heather Walters

One: Tonight we come together to prepare for the arrival of our Savior.

Many: Tonight we make ready our welcome for God's only Son, Jesus.

One: We have begun the holy season of Advent, the season of preparing once more for the birth of Christ.

Many: As we renew the special meaning of the Advent, a season of reflection and anticipation,

One: Let us clear our minds and open our hearts to the coming of the Christ.

Many: Let us honor Christ's birth by adorning this sanctuary for the coming of our Savior.

One: Let our songs and symbols represent our personal rededication to God's glory and the incarnation of God's love in the world.

Many: For God loved us so much that God sent us the Prince of Peace. Now more than ever, we need to follow Christ's peaceful ways, so that the world may live with justice and in peace.

The Greenery

Among ancient Romans evergreens were an emblem of peace, joy, and victory. The early Christians placed them in their windows to indicate that Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine, and fir are called evergreens because they never change color. They are ever - green, ever - alive, even in the midst of winter. They symbolize the unchanging nature of our God, and they remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus.

“The glory of Lebanon will be yours—the forests of cypress, fir, and pine—to beautify my sanctuary.” (Isaiah 60:13, NLT)

*Hymn, No. 154..... VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Anthem Music Munchkins
Bethlehem Lullaby, Little Grey Donkey

The Candles

The lighting of candles has been a part of religious worship for centuries. The candle's light symbolizes Christ's coming into the world of sin and evil, war and strife, stress and turmoil, suffering and death. Jesus came to bring hope and help to those who were held captive by oppression and to guide them to personal peace and joy through the illumination of Christ's message of the love of God.

"Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying... He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!" (Luke 2:28-32)

A Message of Hope: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Anna Marcheterre

*Hymn, No. 155 GENEVAN 42
Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Anthem Music Makers & Young Musicians Bells
Joy to the World

Chorus of Praise Worship Ensemble
Magnificat

The Poinsettias

Most Christmas greenery reflects European traditions. But one colorful plant, which looks like a flaming star, the poinsettia, is native to the American continent. It was named after Dr. Joel Robert Poinset, an ambassador to Mexico who first introduced it to the United States in 1828. The people of Mexico and Central America call the brilliant tropical plant the "Flower of the Holy Night." The star-shaped, red leaves of the poinsettia plant remind us of the Star of Bethlehem, the shed blood of the infants slain by Herod, the crown of thorns, and the beautiful sacrifice of the King of Glory for us.

A Message of Peace: Micah 5:2-5a Dr. Jeffrey Kinlaw

*Hymn, No. 180 ST. LOUIS
O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Chrismons

The Chrismon tree is highly symbolic, conveying the life of Christ and the meaning of Christmas through commonly found items and easily understood symbols borrowed or modified from other sources. The tree is evergreen, representing eternal life, and decorated with traditional and modified ancient Christian symbols, called Chrismons. The word "Chrismon" comes from a combination of "Christ's Monograms." Chrismons are usually handmade by members of local congregations in colors of white and gold. Many of our Chrismons have been made and remade over the years by members of our church.

A Message of Joy: Isaiah 35:1-10..... Emily Cribb and Samuel Ivey

*Hymn, No. 153..... HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The Lighting of the Candles

A Message of Love: Zephaniah 3:14-20..... Dixon Davis and Ethan Stevens

Anthem..... Sanctuary Choir

Breath of Heaven

A Message of Light: John 1:1-14..... Rev. Doug Reedy

*Hymn, No. 185..... MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Benediction Rev. Owens, Rev. Reedy, and Rev. Little

(Please read the bold print aloud.)

One: What is this season of Advent?

Many: Advent is the good news that the Lord accepts all people, just as we are.

One: Advent is the time for receiving into our lives the gift of new relationships.

Many: Advent is the light that takes away the darkness of our pride, greed, power, and selfishness.

One: Advent is the time of new hope.

Many: Advent is the time of new birth.

One: May Christ be born in you

Many: And in the lives of people everywhere. Amen.

Postlude..... Dr. Mark Andersen

*Congregation is invited to stand

*Greenery and Poinsettias
are Given to the Glory of God*

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Gene and Carolyn Bennett	Candy and Jan
Charlie and Lessie Bennett.....	Candy and Jan
Elsie Gentry Britt.....	Mark and Nancy Wagner
Mr. and Mrs. James N. Britt, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. James N. Britt, III
The Britt and Byrd Family	Bobbie Britt
Dr. Russell Cherry.....	Barbara Andrews
The Chism Family	Bobbie Britt
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Currin	Wayne L. Rabon and Lisa R. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Freeman.....	Wayne L. Rabon and Lisa R. Johnson
Ennis and Vivian Hester.....	J.W. and Angie Lawson
Michael Hickman	Shirley Hickman
Corky Hickman	Shirley Hickman
Alva and Lizzie Mae Lawson.....	J.W. and Angie Lawson
Regan and Juanita McIntyre.....	Regg McIntyre
Mac, Margaret, and Bill McLean	Meg and Malcolm McLean
Lillian McIntyre Parsons	Regg McIntyre
Bill Pleasant.....	Betty Pleasant and Family
James P. and Dorothy Powers	Michael and Brenda Johnson
Joan F. Rabon	Wayne L. Rabon and Lisa R. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Charles Russ	Mr. and Mrs. James N. Britt, III
Page Sawyer	Johnny and Christy Strickland
Wayne T. Stevens, Sr.	Jeanne B. Stevens
Paul Stone, Sr.	Gail Stone Johnson, Paul and Dyanne Stone
Carolyn Stone	Gail Stone Johnson, Paul and Dyanne Stone
Willard and Lady Strickland	Johnny and Christy Strickland
Nora P. Wayne	Regg McIntyre

<i>In Honor of</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Grayson and Anna Branch.....	Christy and Johnny Strickland
Kendall and Jillian Hunt.....	Christy and Johnny Strickland
Samuel E. Britt	Mark and Nancy Wagner
Helen Odom.....	Nancy Wallace
Larry Sawyer	Christy and Johnny Strickland
The Silverbells.....	Barbara Andrews
Glenda and Phil Taylor.....	Fred and Eliza Williams

In Appreciation

Sincere thanks to everyone who made this service possible.

Directors

Wendy Allen
 Kim Gore
 Betty Hubbard
 Tim Little
 Nancy Wagner

Accompanists

Dr. Mark Andersen
 Betty Hubbard

Sundays at First Baptist

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship

First Baptist Sanctuary or via Facebook Live or YouTube

Wednesdays at First Baptist

6:00 p.m.—Adult Bible Study in the Activities Building

Children’s Activities & Youth Doing Missions

Advent at First Baptist

Christmas Memorial Service Sunday, December 10

5:00 pm in First Baptist Sanctuary

A reflective service to mark the grief that many feel during the holiday season.

Sanctuary Choir Cantata Sunday, December 17

During 10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary

Spontaneous Nativity Wednesday, December 20

*Hear the story of Christ's birth in an unique way. All children are welcome to take part.
Helen Lawson is retiring! A reception for Helen will take place following this service.*

Morning Worship and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Sunday, December 24

5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

*Worship with us at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary, on Facebook Live, or on YouTube. No
Sunday School classes will meet.*

*During the Christmas Eve service, the Christ Candle will be lit, we'll sing carols, read
the account of the birth of Jesus, and then share the light of Christ.*

Give to First Baptist Church!

You may donate to your ministry during Sunday worship, scan the QR code with your cell phone camera, give online, or mail your contribution (606 N. Walnut Street, Lumberton, NC 28358).



