

# Hanging of the Green

*A Service for the Beginning of Advent*



First Baptist Church  
Lumberton, North Carolina  
December 1, 2024  
10:30 a.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 ..... Rev. Lisa Rust

Welcome ..... Rev. Josh Owens

Call to Worship ..... Rev. Owens

*(Please read the bold print aloud.)*

One: How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

**Many: With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.**

One: How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

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

One: How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

**Many: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.**

One: How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

**Many: By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.**

One: Today we wait with Hope for the light of Christ to shine in the dark places of lives and memories.

**Many: We wait in Hope for God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all creation to be born again in Bethlehem.**

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

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

### *The Meaning of the Hangings of the Green Service*

Anthem..... Friends of Jesus

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

A Message of Hope: Jeremiah 33:14-16..... John Underwood

### *The Greenery*

The greenery we hang is 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. 153 ..... Congregation  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Anthem ..... Music Munchkins  
*Little Gray Donkey  
There Was a Little Baby*

### *The Wreaths*

The circle of wreaths remind us of eternity and the unbreakable bond that exists between God and humanity. The wreaths remind us to celebrate the life, peace, and love of the season.

Anthem ..... Sanctuary Choir  
*Glory Shone Around*

### *The Advent Wreath*

The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are the themes of the Advent season and the gifts we claim thanks to the birth of Jesus our Savior.

\*Hymn, No. 200 ..... Congregation  
*While by the Sheep* (stanzas 1 and 2)

Anthem ..... Children’s Bells  
*Christmas Bells*

### *The Poinsettias*

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.

\*Hymn, No. 180 ..... Congregation  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (stanzas 1 and 4)

Offertory Prayer ..... Rev. Doug Reedy

Offertory ..... Youth Bells

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

*Doxology*

**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. Amen.**

A Message of Invitation: Revelation 22:12-14, 17 ..... Noah Paige & Faith Harrelson

*The Chrismons*

*These are the many symbols, names, and monikers representing Christ. They serve as visual reminders of the many ways Christ is our Emmanuel.*

*“Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot — yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.”  
Isaiah 11:1, NLT*

\*Hymn, No. 185 ..... Congregation

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Homily ..... Rev. Owens

*Welcoming the Light*

\*Hymn, No. 205 ..... Congregation

*Away in a Manger*

\*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 ..... Rev. Lisa Rust

\*Congregation is invited to stand

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

<i><b>In Memory of</b></i>	<i><b>Given by</b></i>
Tom Barker.....	Meg & Malcolm McLean
Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Britt, Jr.....	Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Britt, III
E.J. Britt Family .....	Bobbie Britt
George Byrd Family .....	Bobbie Britt
Clyde Chism Family.....	Bobbie Britt
Stacy Davis.....	Harmon J. Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Currin.....	Wayne Rabon & Lisa Johnson
Sylvia Edwards.....	Mark & Julia Kinlaw Family
Sylvia Edwards.....	Sharon & Eddie Prevatte
Sylvia Edwards.....	Harmon J. Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Freeman .....	Wayne Rabon & Lisa Johnson
Tillie Jones .....	Glenda & Phil Taylor and Family
Billy Kinlaw .....	Harmon J. Edwards
Charles Kinlaw .....	Mark & Julia Kinlaw Family
Charles Kinlaw .....	Meg & Malcolm McLean
Charles Kinlaw .....	Harmon J. Edwards
Frances & Colin Osborne, Jr. ....	Colin & Glenda Osborne, III
Hazel & Maurice Prevatte .....	Sharon & Eddie Prevatte
Hazel Prevatte.....	Harmon J. Edwards
Maurice Prevatte.....	Harmon J. Edwards

*continued, next page*

Mrs. Joan F. Rabon.....	Wayne Rabon & Lisa Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Russ.....	Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Britt, III
Paul & Carolyn Stone.....	Gail Stone Johnson & Paul, Jr. & Dyanne Stone
Nancy Wallace.....	Meg & Malcolm McLean

<i><b>In Honor of</b></i>	<i><b>Given by</b></i>
Grayson & Anna Branch .....	Christy & Johnny Strickland
Linda Collins .....	Lois Johnson
Gracie Davis .....	Harmon J. Edwards
Harmon Edwards .....	Mark & Julia Kinlaw Family
Kendall & Jillian Hunt.....	Christy & Johnny Strickland
Catherine Lee.....	Lois Johnson
Rev. Tim Little .....	Lois Johnson
Helen Odom.....	Glenda & Phil Taylor and Family
Colin & Glenda Osborne .....	Glenda & Phil Taylor and Family
Glenda & Phil Taylor .....	Fred & Eliza Williams
Susan Welsh Sunday School .....	Lois Johnson
Susan Welsh Sunday School .....	Mark & Julia Kinlaw Family
Eliza & Fred Williams.....	Glenda & Phil Taylor and Family

### **In Appreciation**

*Sincere thanks to everyone who made this service possible.*

### **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*

### **Children's Caroling Night Wednesday, December 4**

*We will be riding the church bus around the community to sing carols starting at 5:30 pm.*

### **Church-wide Christmas Breakfast and Friends of Jesus Singing Sunday, December 8**

*We will have a time of fellowship together during the Sunday School hour (9:30 am) followed by carols performed by the Friends of Jesus Class. The church is providing muffins, sausage, grits, and juice, so just come and enjoy time together.*

### **Spontaneous Nativity & Fellowship Meal Wednesday, December 11**

*Hear the story of Christ's birth in an unique way at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All children are welcome to take part. A meal will follow the service. For the meal, the church is providing fried chicken. We ask you to bring your favorite side or dessert to share.*

### **Sanctuary Choir Cantata Sunday, December 15**

*During 10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary*

### **Christmas Memorial Service Sunday, December 15**

*A reflective service to mark the grief that many feel during the holiday season held at 5:00 pm in the Chapel.*

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tuesday, December 24**

*Worship with us at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary, on Facebook Live, or on YouTube. 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 at [fbclumbertonnc.org/give](http://fbclumbertonnc.org/give), text FBC606 to 73256, or mail your contribution (606 N. Walnut Street, Lumberton, NC 28358).



GIVING

## Servants this Sunday

Please enter at the Sanctuary vestibule for Worship.

9:30 Sunday School — Entrance Greeters 9:00-9:30 am  
6th Street Ramp (Handicap) — Preston Britt  
ECM Entrance (Handicap) — J.W. and Angie Lawson

10:30 Worship — Entrance Greeters 10:00-11:30 am  
Vestibule — Dianne and Layton Britt

Nursery — Ashlynn Cox and Jenna Davis

Extended Session will not meet today as children are participating in the service.

## Restrooms

Ladies restrooms are located outside of the organ-side of the Sanctuary. A family/handicap accessible restroom with an infant changing table is located outside of the piano-side of the Sanctuary.

