

SERVICE OF HANGING OF THE GREENS

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

The First Service of Advent

Gathering for Praise

Chimes

Musical Meditation

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Opening Litany

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

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

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

With cloths of blue and gold, reminders of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

With blooming plants, whose bright leaves in winter remind us of Christ's death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of God's servants, who tell us of God's saving work.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,

but that the world through Christ might be saved.

Glory to God in the highest!

Anthem

E'en So, Lord, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Hearing God's Word

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-4

Hymn

People Look East

UMH 202

Second Reading

Isaiah 64:5-9

Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

Blessing of the Garland

Because the needles of pine and fir appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever.

We hang these evergreens to signify the everlasting reign of Christ, and we ask God's blessing on them and on ourselves.

Third Reading

Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19

Hymn

When the King Shall Come Again

Insert

Blessing of the Paraments

Because this rich cloth reminds us of flawed, earthly majesty and power, it points beyond to the perfect justice and power of Christ's majesty.

We cover the Lord's table with it to proclaim the coming Kingdom of God, and we ask God's blessing on it and on ourselves.

Fourth Reading

1 Corinthians: 1:3-9

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

UMC 216

Verse 1, Quartet

Verses 2, 3, Choirs and Congregation

Blessing of the Poinsettias

Because these plants turn bright and lively in the cold, short days of winter, North Americans see in them echoes of a Christmas miracle.

We place these blooming plants to remind ourselves that Christ brings life to a suffering world, and we ask God's blessing on them and on ourselves.

Fifth Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Special Music

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Chapel Choir

Blessing of the Wreath

Because this wreath forms a never ending circle of ever-green branches, it shows us the earthly shadows of life without end.

We place this wreath so that we can prepare ourselves to accept Christ's invitation to light and life and love. We ask God's blessing on it and on ourselves.

May all these preparations of the holy space of worship reflect the holy splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

Responding in Faith

Lighting the Advent Wreath

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ, the Hope of the whole world.

May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Verses 1, 5

UMH 211

Prayers of the People

Departing to Serve

Benediction

Hymn

All Earth is Waiting (Toda la Tierra)
Verses 1, 2

UMH 210

Worship Notes

Musicians: Randall Harlow, organ; Yvi Martin, viola.

Choirs: Chapel Choir, directed by John Cowden; Candler Singers, directed by Barbara Day Miller.

Speakers: Roberta Bondi, Wesley de Souza, Ted Hackett, Tewana LeCounte-Young, Ian McFarland, Gail O'Day, Joe Palmer, Russell Richey, Paula Smith, Billy Timmons

Volunteers: Susannah Baskerville, Julie Boone, Beth Bostrom, Holley Butkovich, Michelle Calderon, Nicole Christopher, John Clayton, Beth Luton Cook, Darian Duckworth, Mark Dwiggin, Nancy Eastridge, Tamara Flinchum, Jamilla Garrett-Bell, Krystal Grant, Kelly Gulley, Cassie Haffner, Candace Hirsch, Jeannie Hunter, Anequa Jackson, Sonja Jackson, Matt King, David Lessner, Michelle Levan, Lisa Parker, Allison Parvin, Sara Porter, Joe Robideaux, Alice Rogers, Doug Sasser, Wanda Scott, Charity Simpson, Clayton Smith, Jena Tinley. Special thanks to Stephanie Smith for creating the garland bows.

Many thanks to the whole Candler community for participating in this service.

Worship Office Coordinator: Beth Anderson, Ed Walker

Planners: Meredith McNabb, Gary Naylor, Alvelyn Sanders, Amy Walker

Sources: Service adapted from the United Methodist Book of Worship. Prayers of the People by Gary Naylor. *When the King Shall Come Again* from RitualSong, GIA Publications, 1996. Reproduced by permission, OneLicense