



# Hanging of the Greens

**Bethesda Presbyterian Church  
Aberdeen, North Carolina  
Founded 1788**

December 1, 2024, 9 am

## **Gathering Music**

One: Dearly beloved, hear the promise of God. In the days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hill; all the nations shall stream to it. Many people shall come and say: "Come let us go up to the mountain of the: and that we may walk in God's paths." Isaiah

2:2-3

Child: What shall we bring into the house of God?

**All: Bring branches of the evergreen, hang wreaths and garlands, and raise a Christmas tree.**

One: Friends, fill this place with the fragrance of living things, open your ears to the Word, and prepare this house for the presence of the Lord.

### **Opening Prayer**

One: Gracious and merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have gathered in this hour to prepare the sanctuary for this Advent season, to hear your Word, and to give you glory. Receive our worship, we pray, in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

One: People of God, the first Sunday of Advent is the doorway into the Christian year. So let us mark the doors of our sanctuary and call upon Christ to come into our hearts and minds.

**ALL: Come Lord Jesus! Come, Lord Jesus!**

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the Ruler of Glory may come in!

**All: Who is the Ruler of glory?**

One: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

**ALL: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
That the Ruler of glory may come in.**

One: Who is this Ruler of glory?

**ALL: The Lord of Hosts, The Lord is the Ruler of glory!**

*Wreaths are hung on the front doors*

### **Hymn #95**

*Prepare the Way of the Lord (sung twice)*

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.*

One: How shall we remember the call to repentance and the steadfast love of God?

**ALL:** Let us adorn our windows with greenery and listen to the promise of the prophet Hosea:

*Windows are decorated*

A reading from Hosea, chapter 14:

*I will heal my people's disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; your faithfulness comes from me. Those who are wise understand these things; those who are discerning know them. For the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.* Here ends the reading.

**Hymn #108 v. 1**                      *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!*

*Amen.*

One: Friends, why do we raise a Christmas tree?

**ALL: To remember the promise of God.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 41:

*When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive; I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together, so that all may see and know, all may consider and understand, the hand of the Lord as done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.* The word of the Lord.

**Hymn #150 v.4**                      *As with Gladness Men of Old*

*Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.*

One: How shall we recall the birth of Jesus, His calling to save, and His oneness with God?

**ALL:** We will hang stars, crosses, triangles, the “alpha” and the “omega” and signs of Christ the prophet, priest, and king.

**Hymn #143 v. 1&4**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
You who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come  
and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.*

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your  
voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and worship, come and  
worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*During hymn, children come forward and adorn the tree with Chrismons*

A reading from the book of Revelation, chapter 22:

*“See. I am coming soon... I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendent of David, the bright morning star.” The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.” And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Hymn #134 v.2**

*Joy to the World*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

**Benediction**