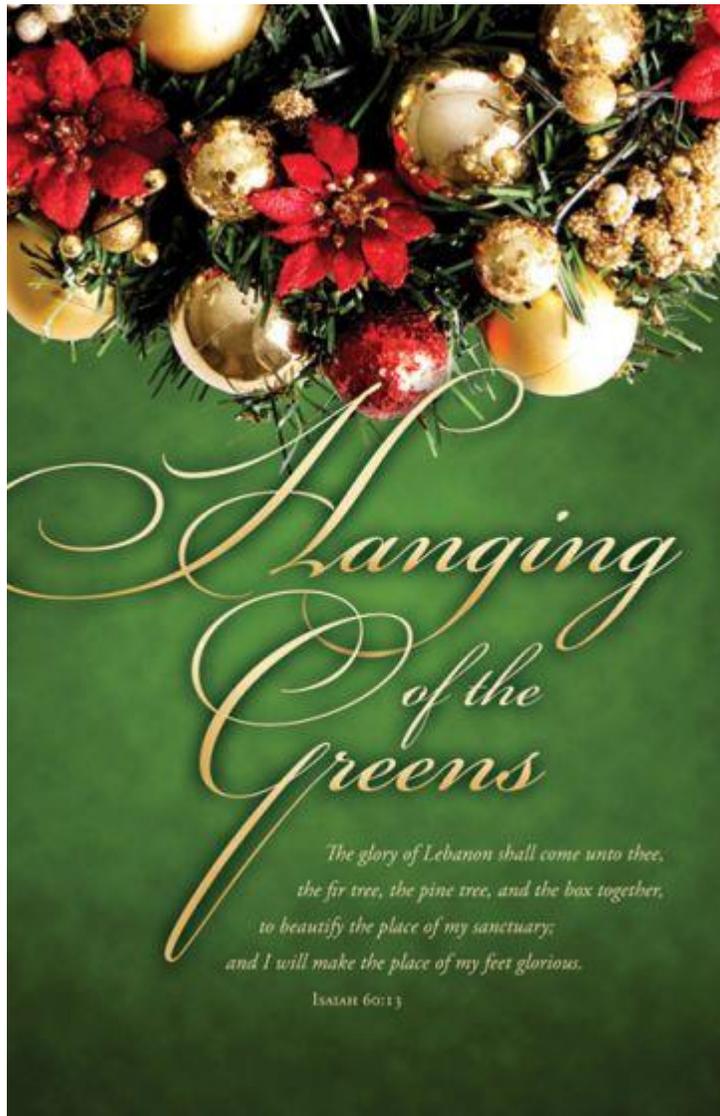


Eastminster Presbyterian



SUNDAY, November 28, 2021
10:30 a.m.

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INDIALANTIC, FLORIDA

Hanging of the Greens
Order of Worship

“The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious”. Isaiah 60: 13

PRELUDE

Bach

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Fred Foy Strang

CALL to WORSHIP

Sarum Plainsong

“Creator of the Stars of Night”
Natalie Harris, Soprano

INVOCATION

God of the manger and star, as we enter your story once again, we find ourselves kneeling with the shepherds, singing with the angels, and worshipping with the Magi. Touch our hearts with the wonder of birth and the depths of Your love. Speak to us in word and song, and lift us to the realms of glory. Amen.

***CAROL OF PRAISE # 1**

HYFRYDOL

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Chuck Reisinger

We are captive, exiled, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path away from You. We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have too often substituted our judgment for Yours. We are lost and in need of guidance. Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us. Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us. Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us. We wait for You Lord Jesus.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between, the Good News speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us.

ALL: God comes! Not to punish, but to gift us with peace.

Leader: Not to judge us, but to save us.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE OF ADORATION #9

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*LITANY OF THE GREENS

Rev. Darice Dawson and Congregation

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?

ALL: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

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

ALL: With garlands and wreaths of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

ALL: By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.

Leader: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

ALL: All Glory to God in the Highest!

PARAMENTS

Psalm 122:1 NRSV

Rev. Dr. Strang and Rev. Dawson

Rev. Strang: "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"

Rev. Dawson: We have placed the Advent paraments. The lighting of a new candle each of the four weeks before Christmas reminds us that something is happening, but more is yet to come. The royal color purple, is used to remind us of the King of Kings, who came to be the GOOD NEWS for all the world.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: As we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope, we wait for the coming of Christ, light of the world.

People: Come, Lord Jesus

Leader: The true Light, who enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.

People: Come, Lord Jesus

Leader: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

All: Christ, shine in Your church today.

Rev. Strang - Let us pray: Gracious God, we seek You everywhere with expectant eyes that invite us to seek hope in the world today. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH

Richard West

JEREMIAH 23: 5-6

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, and He shall reign as king, and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which He will be called: “The Lord is our Righteousness”.

Mary West

The Advent Wreath is a vivid symbol of preparation. The circle of evergreens reminds us of the everlasting covenant offered in the birth of Jesus. We have lit the first candle as a symbol of Christ, our HOPE. May the GOOD NEWS of Christ’s coming ring from the heavens to show us the way of salvation.

CAROL # 36

CRANHAM

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow.
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

BLESSINGS OF TITHES, GIFTS, OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Miller

*“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”
Chancel Choir*

DOXOLOGY

POLISH MELODY

*“Christmas Doxology”
Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
Glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three in One.
Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,
As we glory in your presence, giving from a grateful heart.*

HOLLY AND IVY

Julio Vallette

ISAIAH 53: 3A, 4A, 5-6

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with grief. Surely He has borne our infirmities, and carried our diseases. But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities. Upon Him was the punishment that made us whole. And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Susan Vallette

For Christians, this passage from Isaiah reflects the sufferings of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by His death on the cross, and by His resurrection from the dead. In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of Christ’s passion. Their prickly leaves suggest the crown of thorns, the red berries the blood of the Savior, and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we place the holly and ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus our Savior.

"The Holly and the Ivy"

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown:
O, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer, the playing of the
Merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to do poor sinners good:
O, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer, the playing of the
Merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn:
O, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer, the playing of the
Merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a bark as bitter as the gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all:
O, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer, the playing of the
Merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

MANGER

Ron Marshall

LUKE 2: 6-7

And while they were there the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Nancy Marshall

The manger is placed as a reminder that Jesus Christ was born in the humblest of places, because humankind would not make room in the heart to hold the Son of God. Just imagine Mary, a young girl, who was told she was chosen to carry the Savior of the world. How frightened she must have been; but Mary was faithful to God's calling. She gave birth to Jesus in this most modest beginning.

MUSIC MEDITATION

"Mary, Did You Know?"
Nicole Conradt, Soprano

WREATHS AND GARLAND

Karl Schab

ISAIAH 9: 2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, among them a light has shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Carla Schab

From ancient times, evergreens have been considered a symbol of eternity a sign of God's everlasting nature. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hang wreaths shaped in circles, and place garlands of green, as a sign of everlasting life. These are symbols of Christ's gift of eternal life and of the celebration of Christmas itself.

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent” #5 Vs 1

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

POINSETTIA**Jim Morris****NUMBERS 24:7**

I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near . . . a star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

Susie Morris

The poinsettia speaks to us symbolically in several ways. The star-shaped formation of ten leaves calls to mind the star which shone that first Christmas. In a less joyous sense, the color of the flower is blood red, reminding us of the male infants killed because King Herod wanted to eliminate any threat to his throne. We sometimes forget this part of the story, which made it necessary for Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child to flee to Egypt.

EVERGREEN TREE**Jim Fisher****MICAH 5: 2, 4**

But you, O Bethlehem, from you shall come forth one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from ancient days. And he shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall live secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and He shall be the One of peace.

Michelle Toms

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality, and was used for purification. We have placed these trees in the sanctuary as a symbol of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming will purify our hearts. We have chosen to use a white tree to show the purity of the coming Messiah. Something about a new-born baby in a manger echoes innocence, goodness and purity. Can anyone doubt the purity of the baby born in Bethlehem? When Daniel the prophet saw the Ancient of Days, Daniel described His garment to be white as snow.

THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS**TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH (Children & Youth)****Melinda Miller**

Christmas is a colorful time of year. There are sparkling lights, green trees, red ribbons and shimmering decorations. Colors communicate – we give them meanings. When we’re sad, we say we feel blue; and at times, we can be green with envy. The first Christmas had all the makings of being gray and dreary. A young couple, Joseph and Mary, are ordered to travel back to their home town of Bethlehem for a census. They are forced into a stable with animals; the Savior enters the world with parents who are poor, and in a land occupied by invaders. But into such an unlikely drab scene comes a vibrant palette of rich color and light. Let us now hang our colors of Christmas, and our Christmas ornaments on the white tree:

- The color **blue** is the sky where the angels appeared as they sang “Peace on Earth” to the shepherds who feared. The **Fish** ornament represents one of the oldest Christian symbols as “fishers of men” who fished in the waters under the blue sky.

- Silver is for the bright Christmas star which guided the Wise Men from countries afar. The Star of David ornament reminds us Jesus was Jewish, and a descendent of King David.
- Gold tells of their gifts for the baby that day who they found in the manger, asleep on the hay. The Crown ornament represents our belief that Jesus is ruler over heaven and earth.
- Red is for the blood Jesus shed for you and me. The 5-pointed Star represents the 5 wounds of Jesus on the cross.
- Purple is for suffering and death on the cross. The Cross ornament represents our belief that Jesus died on the cross for all.
- Green shows that Jesus arose from the dead - saved us and freed us, just as He said. The Alpha and Omega ornament are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolizing Jesus is the beginning and the ending of all things.

Kelly Dunn

FINAL PREPARATION

As our final preparation for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we will light the Christmas tree. And in this time of Advent, whenever you see a lighted tree, let it call to mind the One who is the Good News, the one who brings light into darkness, the One who heals our brokenness, and the One who gives peace to all who will receive Him. May this tree, arrayed in beauty and splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.

MESSAGE

**‘Don’t Open ‘til Christmas’
Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 3:7-18**

Rev. Dr. Strang

CAROL OF RESPONSE #1

*“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”
Vs 2, 3, 4*

STUTTGART

**Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From Isaiah 40:35

Rev. Chuck Reisinger

LEADER: I hear a voice in the wilderness: “Prepare ye the way of the Lord, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

PEOPLE: I believe every valley shall be lifted up, And every mountain and hill made low;
I believe the uneven ground shall become level, And the rough places plain; I believe the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

***CAROL MEDLEY**

'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' # 31, Vs 1

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"**

**Joyful, all ye nation rise, going the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" #41, Vs 1

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Strang

**Go forth from this place an awakened people, an expectant people, and a serving people. May the
GOOD NEWS spring forth from us so we can share it with all people. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

FRENCH CAROL

'IL EST NE'



*The chancel flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God in honor of Helen Ullian's
milestone birthday on November 30th from her many friends at Eastminster.*

