

The "Hanging of the Greens" service is an ancient custom. In the darkest days of winter, long before the invention of electricity, evergreens were placed in homes and churches as a reminder of God's never-ending faithfulness. Our liturgy this morning asks the question, "How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King"? It is this preparation to which we turn our attention this morning.

### CALENDAR DECEMBER 3-9, 2017

#### Sunday, December 3

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Song Worship-Christian Life Center
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship-Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast of Traditional Service-WKBL 1250AM
- 6:00 p.m. Service of Advent Celebration-Sanctuary

#### Monday, December 4

- 4:15 p.m. Worship Planning Meeting-Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting-New Beginnings Classroom
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Christian Life Center

#### Wednesday, December 6

- 4:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal-Christian Life Center
- 5:30 p.m. High School Girls Small Group-Sampson's Home
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Bible Study-Lower Level Education Building
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice-Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Small Group-CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry-Now Classroom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice-Sanctuary

#### Thursday, December 7

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast-Fellowship Hall

#### Saturday, December 9

- 9:00 a.m. Food Pantry-Munford UMC
- 4:00 p.m. God's Grace Sunday School Class-Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser-Christian Life Center



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*Leading Others to Christ † Learning to be Disciples † Loving through Service*

# **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017**

**11:00 A.M.**

# Order of Worship

*First Sunday of Advent*

*Liturgical Color-Blue*

PRELUDE *O Worship the King* Justin Hanson, Organ  
arr. Ritter

WORDS OF WELCOME Joey Caldwell

## \*INTRODUCTION

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

**With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

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 our Savior?

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

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

**By hearing again the words of the prophets,**

**who foretold the saving work of God.**

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

but that the world through him might be saved.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

GOD WILL SEND A RIGHTEOUS KING Jeremiah 23:5-6 Marlyn and Scott Seagrave

\*HYMN *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* UMH 196

THE PROPHET DECLARES A CHILD WILL BE BORN Glen and Brenna Grace Lockhart  
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Rev. Dan Camp

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again.

Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior,  
who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.**

**Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.**

**May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Isaiah 60:2-3 Beth and Emma Leigh Lockhart

\*HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH 211  
(stanzas 5, 6 and 7)

THE FOURTH SERVANT SONG Isaiah 53:1-6 Jimmy and Yvonne Bryant

\*HYMN *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* UMH 203  
(stanzas 5, 6 and 7)

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-5, 9-14 Keith Phelps and Family

BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE Rev. Camp

**Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son,**

**who rescued us from the darkness of sin**

**by making the cross a tree of life and light.**

**May this tree, arrayed in splendor,**

**remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ,**

**that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH 206

OFFERTORY PRAYER Joey Caldwell

OFFERTORY *He Shall Feed His Flock* Justin Hanson, Organ  
arr. Handel

\*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

**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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
(Using The Great Thanksgiving for Advent. Responses found on pages 12-14 of UMH.)

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP Rev. Camp  
(Those desiring to unite with this Christian fellowship are invited to make their way forward.)

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Camp

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *For You Alone are Worthy* Choir

POSTLUDE *Christian Reflections* Justin Hanson, Organ  
arr. Douglas

*\*Please stand as you are able.*