

Hangings of the Greens



~ Gathering before the Word ~**Prelude***Creator Alme Siderum*

Anonymous

Welcome & Service of Friendship

Pastor Darryl Evans

***Call to Worship**

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 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 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!*****Hymn of Praise No. 56***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

STUTTGART

Missions: Giving Tree Project

Renee Goodnight

10 Cents a Meal

Michelle Walker

~ Hanging of the Greens Service ~**God Will Send a Righteous King**

Malaina Meeks

“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.’”

- Jeremiah 23:5-6

In ancient times, the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. We place this cedar branch as a sign of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming, in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

The Prophet Declares a Child Will Be Born

Mel Eaton

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

- Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Because the needles of pine and fir trees appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hang this wreath of evergreens shaped in a circle, which itself has no end, to signify the eternal reign of Jesus, the Christ.

*Hymn

The Holly and the Ivy

arr. Walters

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.
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
For to do us sinners good.
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 any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.
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 blossom,
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Saviour.
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.
The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

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.
The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The Servant Song

Chariti Lowder

“Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises 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.”

- Isaiah 53:1-6

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 suggested 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 hang the holly and ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our Savior.

***Hymn No. 74**

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

The Mystery of the Incarnation

Darryl Evans

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who receive him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

- John 1:1-5, 9-14

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we light the Chrismon tree. During this Advent, wherever you see a lighted Chrismon or Christmas tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.

***Hymn No. 67**

Blessed Be the God of Israel

FOREST GREEN

Anthem

A Home for Jesus
Choristers

Schram

Homily

Darryl Evans

~ Congregational Response ~

*Affirmation of Faith – I Peter 1:3-9

David Hamilton

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Darryl Evans

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering & Offertory

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Prudentius

Tana Nichols, oboe

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Commitment No. 482

Soon and Very Soon

*Benediction

Postlude

The People That in Darkness Wait

Bridges

*All who are able please stand.

CCLI # 2221136

To Our Guests

Welcome! We are delighted that you are worshiping with us this morning. We hope you find today meaningful and refreshing. You are warmly invited to stop by the Welcome Center just outside the sanctuary. If you have a prayer request, please see Darryl or call us at 704-938-4623.

Children's Activity Bags are available for children age 3 to Grade 5. They include a children's bulletin related to the Sunday sermon, crayons, and scrap paper. An usher would be happy to bring you one.

Upcoming

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our efforts to pack 400 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes this year! Whether you donated money, time, yard sale items, or collection items; made dresses or painted t-shirts; helped sort or pack; or prayed for this ministry, we could not have made our goal without you. We will update you when we know their destination(s). Please continue to pray that the boxes will arrive safely and will bless the lives of the children and communities who receive them!

This year, the Missions Team has designated our Christmas Tree in the Narthex the "Giving Tree". Beginning today, November 25, you may select items to purchase for the Salvation Army Hope Shelter or items to adopt for Sole Hope. Please return items or donations by Christmas Eve.

Blankets for the Homeless - Tana Nichols has placed a labeled box in the vestibule to collect blankets for the homeless in our community. If you have any gently used blankets of any size that you can donate, they will be greatly appreciated as the weather gets colder. If you would like to purchase a blanket to donate, Walmart has fleece blankets for less than \$10. What a difference a warm soft blanket makes!

Wednesday night activities will continue for our children and youth in November and December! For your convenience, meals will be provided each Wednesday beginning at 5:30. Parents are welcome to stay and help, too. Please join us for these fun activities!

Wed., Nov. 28 - Choristers (K-8) rehearse with choir 6:15-6:30. All youth make gift baskets for shut-ins until 7:30. Meal: Grilled Hamburgers & Hot Dogs.

Wed., Dec. 5 - Choristers (K-8) rehearse with choir 6:15-6:30. Gingerbread House Workshop for all youth and families beginning at 6:30. (Please register with postcard, available in Narthex or Fellowship Hall foyer). Meal: Baked Potato & Salad Bars.

Wed., Dec. 12 - Choristers (K-8) rehearse with choir 6:15-6:30. All youth make gifts baskets for shut-ins until 7:30. Meal: Tacos.

Wed., Dec. 19 - All youth go Christmas caroling with Chancel Choir and deliver gift baskets to shut-ins. Meal: Country Ham, Pinto Beans, Cabbage/Greens; Dessert on return from caroling.

Please join us for a Gingerbread House Workshop on Wednesday, Dec. 5th. We will begin with dinner at 5:30 (baked potato and salad bars), then start making our Gingerbread Houses at 6:30. In order to get an accurate number of supplies, please register by filling out the postcard located in the narthex or fellowship hall vestibule. Return to the church office or place in Michelle Walker's box by Sunday, Dec. 2!

The **JOY Group will have a covered dish lunch** at the home of Ron & Alpha Barger on Friday, December 14 at noon. Please bring a cover dish. Ham and drinks will be provided. Directions will be put with the sign up sheet which is located outside the parlor.

If you would like to contribute flowers for worship, please see the sign-up poster on the bulletin board just outside the church office. The cost for an arrangement is \$56. Or, if you like to purchase something permanent that can be rotated during the weeks we don't have a live arrangement, please contact Jill McLain.



www.firstpresb.org

201 Vance Street
Kannapolis NC 28081-4383
Phone - 704-938-4623

The Session

Rev. Dr. Darryl Evans, Moderator
Jeff Barnhardt, Clerk of Session

Class of 2019

Garrett Brady
Mike Freeman
Allison Hammett
Carol Lowder

Class of 2020

Jeff Barnhardt
Frank Gibson
Phil McLain
Gip Rumble

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Darryl Evans
Pastor

David Hamilton
Director of Music

Michelle Walker
Director of Children's Ministries

Terri Pruett
Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Kay Yates
Organist

Irene Davis
Nursery Director

Prayer Concerns

Iris Efird - recovering from surgery.

Mike Williams - at CMC-NE.

Sharon Stricker - broken knee.

Mary Johns - upcoming surgeries, including eye cancer.

Emily Griggs - teacher in Casablanca.

Donna Whitley - recovering from surgery, now at home.

Juanita Holt - back at home.

Loretta Young - at Five Oaks.

Peggy Barnhardt - at Morningside with Dementia.

Lynn Efird - continuing treatment.

Ellen Little - continued prayers for the health issues of Ellen and family.

Connie Rary - still fighting cancer, went to Duke specialist.

Debby Baker - participating in a cancer clinical trial.

FAMILY OF MEMBERS

Jason Gibson - youngest son of Frank, suffers from Crohn's Disease and is facing major surgery for the third time. Surgery will take place at Vanderbilt University Hospital in February.

Travis Boan & Family - friend of Chariti Lowder, recent cancer diagnosis and trying to determine treatment plan.

Brenda Park - friend of Carol Lowder, facing a serious colon surgery.

Amy Ritchie - friend of Jane Jacobs, dealing with stage 4 Breast Cancer.

Nancy Barger - friend of Jane Jacobs, dealing with cancer.

Jay - brother of Ellen Little, home from hospital and awaiting update for surgery.

Mark McDaniel - brother of Mal McDaniel, in remission and making great progress!

Barbara Coffey - friend of Judy Hunter: stage 4 Breast Cancer, undergoing chemo.

Thomas Dishman - friend of Judy Hunter: problems with LVAD, awaiting heart transplant.

Chuck Rogers - friend of Judy Hammond: suffered stroke following surgery.

Shelia & Steve Dobson - friends of Judy Hammond: Steve had brain surgery.

Russell Gardner - friend of Mike Freeman: cancer and recurring pneumonia.

Ernest Miller - friend of Mike Freeman: lung cancer and PTSD (Viet Nam Vet)

Lori Holder - daughter of Sam McAllister: Suffering with MS.

Arthur Fu - brother of Jessica Bell: Fighting cancer.

Teresa Alexander - friend of Renee Goodnight: Diagnosed with brain tumors and staph infection.

Special Church Member of the Week

Joe Crawford

Black Mountain Neuro-Medical
Treatment Center
932 Old US Hwy 70
Black Mountain, NC 28711

Send a card, make a visit or a call,
or offer a prayer. All to say "God
loves you and the church cares
about you."

Hope Community - church plant in Wilmington, NC with Nate Stratman.

Prayer request? Please write it down on the blue pew prayer card, & place in the offering plate.

Servants

Greeters: Mike Freeman & Carol Lowder

Elder Lock-Up: Allison Hammett

Videographer: David Reed

Nursery: Shannon & Emma Sechler

Nursery Next Week: Lynn Efird

Acolytes: Amelia & Toby Caskey

Acolytes Next Week: Will Evans & August Williams

Ushers: Bobby Hallman, Tony Hunter, Mal McDaniel & Daniel Pless

Ushers next week: Jason & Erin Burris; Doug & Amelia Goodnight

This Week

TODAY

9:30 a.m. - **Coffee Hour -**

New Connection Class

10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School /**

Children's Church

10:00 a.m. - **New Covenant Partners
Class**

11:00 a.m. - **Worship Service -**

Hanging of the Greens

MONDAY

8:00 p.m. - **Alcoholics Anonymous**

TUESDAY

12:00 p.m. - **Narcotics Anonymous**

6:00 p.m. - **Mission Team Meeting**

WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. - **Youth/Children Supper**

6:15 p.m. - **Choristers**

6:30 p.m. - **Make gift baskets
for shut-ins**

6:30 p.m. - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

7:30 p.m. - **Handbell Rehearsal**

THURSDAY

10:30 p.m. - **Thursday Morning
Women's Bible Study**

12:00 p.m. - **NA**

6:30 p.m. - **Boy Scouts**

8:00 p.m. - **AA**

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. - **Coffee Hour -**

Disciples Class

10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School /**

Children's Church

10:00 a.m. - **New Covenant Partners
Class**

11:00 a.m. - **Worship Service**



First Presbyterian Church • 201 Vance Street • Kannapolis, NC 28081

704-938-4623 • Fax 704-938-4631

www.firstpresb.org • office@firstpresb.org