



*Hangings
of the
Greens*

~ Gathering before the Word ~**Prelude***Oh Come, Little Children*

Schulz

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: Christmas Tree Project

Renee Goodnight

10 Cents a Meal

Sharon Stricker

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

Chance Williams

“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

Jill McLain

“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

Danny Bost

“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

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

O Holy Night

Adam

Christ Heinz, alto saxophone

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Commitment No. 482

Soon and Very Soon

Benediction

Postlude

Sing We Now of Christmas

arrg. Wellman

*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.

NO Children's Church today! Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary. At the end of the service, the children will be invited forward (with a parent, as needed) to hang an ornament on the Chrismon Tree. They are laid out on tables right in front of the first pew. The nursery will be open as usual.

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

A note of thanks: Praise to our Lord for a miracle, surgical removal of cancer. Thank you for prayers, cards, and calls. *Sharon Cranford*

No Wednesday Night Life this week. We will start up again in January for another 8 week session.

Christmas Covered Dish Dinner and Children's Christmas Play will be Sunday, December 3rd at 5:30pm this year. All are invited to attend! Please bring a well filled basket of your favorite dishes to share. Remainder rehearsal schedule for those involved in the play 6:00-7:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 29 & Thursday, Nov. 30; dress Rehearsal on Saturday, December 2, 1:00-3:00pm followed by an ice cream sundae party.

A Gingerbread House Workshop will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 6th from 6:30-7:30pm. Dinner will be served at 5:45 p.m. at a cost of \$5 per person, maximum of \$20 per family. Please bring candy suitable to use on the houses.

The Missions Team has once again reserved a time for our Church to process Shoeboxes at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte. Our assigned slot is on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 5-10pm. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please see Michelle Walker if you have questions.

All Sisters in Christ: We will gather together on Saturday, December 9 from 2-3:30pm for a Christmas Cookie Swap! This will be a special time for connecting with our pairs and sharing about our experiences together. This time also will conclude our formal window of our pairings, yet with the hope of continuing to grow in the everyday journeys together. Please bring 3 dozen of your favorite homemade goodies (whether you or your favorite bakery makes them is up to you!). We will then get to share our yummy goodies with each other to take home to aid in our celebrating of this Christmas season. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lee Evans (252) 944-6264, marylee.evans@gmail.com.

The JOY Group will have a catered Christmas dinner on Friday, December 15 at noon in the fellowship hall. Cost is \$7.00 per person and paid reservations must be in by Sunday, Dec. 10th. Cash only please to Charlene Booth by that date. Signup sheet outside church parlor. There will be musical entertainment and a Christmas Grab Bag. If you wish to participate in the grab bag, please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift.

On December 15th, parents are welcome to drop off their children at the church for a Parents' Night Out from 5:30-9:00pm. This will include pizza, games, crafts, stories, etc. Registration is required to ensure enough chaperones, food, and materials are available, so call the church office or see Tracy to sign up.

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.

Prayer Concerns

Peggy Gibson's twin sister, Vickie Muse, has advanced cancer and is in ICU (in Texas).

Jennifer Williams, recovering at home, no visitors at this time, please.

Rev. Don Greer, grandfather of Chariti Lowder, open heart bypass surgery and bran scans for syncope.

Sharon Cranford, recovering from surgery.

Ron Barger, recovering from surgery.

Special Church Member of the Week

Loretta Young

Five Oaks Manor

Room 302, Bed A

413 Winecoff School Road

Concord, NC 28027

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."



www.firstpresb.org

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

The Session

Rev. Dr. Darryl Evans, Moderator
Wren Philpot, Clerk of Session

Class of 2018

Danny Bost
Peggy Gibson
Mark Goodnight
Sam McAllister

Class of 2019

Garrett Brady
Mike Freeman
Allison Hammett
Carol Lowder

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Darryl Evans
Pastor

David Hamilton
Director of Music

Tracy and Adam Caskey
Youth Directors

Terri Pruet
Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Kay Yates
Organist

Irene Davis
Nursery Director

A friend of the church, Dec 11 court case, pray it will be dismissed with no further charges.

Betty Overcash, now at home.

Tink Wade, friend of Jill McLain, breast cancer, facing chemo, surgery and radiation.

Peggy Barnhardt, at Transitional with broken foot.

Brian Landis, stage 5 renal disease.

Iris Efird, recovering at home.

Connie Rary had a good one year report, and is still fighting cancer.

Sharon Stricker, recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Farrar Griggs, Restoration process after fire at Rocky Creek Presbyterian Church plus health concerns. **Emily Griggs**, back in Morocco

Lori Holder, daughter of Sam McAllister, has MS.

Teresa Alexander, friend of Renée Goodnight, brain tumors.

Mark McDaniel, lymphoma (Mal's brother), making good progress.

Ron Lisenby, leg and knee issues.

Clara Burris, atrial septal defect.

Gene Griggs, cousin of Farrar Griggs, suffered a stroke.

Donna Whitley, kidney disease.

Sherri Bridges, mother of Danielle Byrd, friend of Laura McLain, breast cancer.

Debby Baker, has cancer again.

Linda Bost, small, stable cerebral aneurysm.

Loretta Young, Alzheimer's is progressing and she is declining in health.

Dwight Goodnight, and his son, **Tod Goodnight** who is struggling with Parkinson's Disease.

Juanita Holt, continues to appreciate your calls, cards, and prayers while she continues to recuperate.

Christ the Word church plant in Rolesville, NC with Patrick Cherry.

Dave Viscount, friend of Mark Goodnight, suffering from ALS.

Beth Barnhardt, friend of Judy Hammond, is still having difficulty seeing clearly.

Susan (Hodge) Thomas, recovering from hip surgery.

Joyce Weaver, health issues.

Don Hamilton, Cookie's husband, is on dialysis.

Liam Debord, Hunters' grandson, fighting brain tumors.

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

Children's Message: Sharon Stricker

Children's Message next week: Communion

Videographer: David Reed

Children's Church Leader: Lynn Efird

Children's Church Leader next week: Jenna Baker

Nursery: Mary Lee Evans

Nursery next week: Sharon Stricker

Acolytes: Ella Sechler & Luke Burris

Acolytes next week: Amelia Caskey & Abigail Malinovsky

Ushers: Jason & Erin Burris and Doug & Amelia Goodnight

Ushers next week: William Baker, Jeff Barnhardt, C.J. Semcho & Tony Sherrill

This Week

TODAY

9:00 a.m. - **Prayer Time** - parlor
All are welcome

9:30 a.m. - **Coffee Hour**
New Connection Class

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

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

MONDAY

6:30 p.m. - **Saltshakers**
8:00 p.m. - **Alcoholics Anonymous**

TUESDAY

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

6:00 p.m. - **Missions Team**

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. - **Children's Play Practice**

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

7:30 p.m. - **Alleluia Ringers**

THURSDAY

10:30 a.m. - **Women's Bible Study**

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

6:00 p.m. - **Children's Play Practice**

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

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

SATURDAY

1:00 P.M. - **Children's Play Dress
Rehearsal**

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. - **Prayer Time** - parlor
All are welcome

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

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

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

5:30 p.m. - **Covered Dish & Children's
Christmas Program**

