



Hanging
of the
Greens

PREPARING GOD'S HOUSE

Leader: 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 peoples shall come and say:

Liturgist: Isaiah 2:2-3

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ, our Lord, our King, our Savior? And, how shall we make this place a reminder of our need of repentance and that faithfulness and integrity comes from God, our Maker and our Redeemer? Make the church fragrant with the smell of living things and our holy play. In acts of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets and seers, let us make our hearts and this space a place of inward and outward preparation for the One who comes to give us second birth.

Leader: Because the needles of pine 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 have hung these garlands of holly and wreaths of evergreen. The wreaths, shaped in a never ending circle, signify the eternal reign of Jesus, the Christ.

Liturgist: Isaiah 9:6-7

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

Liturgist: Isaiah 41:17-20

Leader: God, the Holy One of Israel, is a God of comfort and compassion. With the Christmas tree we remember God's everlasting promises to the poor and needy. Isaiah spoke of God's making of the wilderness a place of blessing where water and plants, even pine trees, would manifest God's loving action to save and provide. Here in this place we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Here we will remember His Advent, His birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant. And here we rekindle our prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus" as we await His coming as the bright and morning star.

Liturgist: Philippians 2:6-11

Hymn of Expectation

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Congregation

Leader: Let His Light shine forth from the darkness so that all will know of His great love!

People: *Glory to God in the highest! Amen.*



O Come All Ye Faithful

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.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.