

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
November 28, 2021  
First Sunday of Advent  
**HANGING OF THE GREENS**

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: As we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior, we prepare this house of worship for the birth of God's Son.

**All: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths.**

**\*HYMN OF HOPE** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (vs 1-2) UMH 196

**\*UNISON PRAYER**

**All: Good Lord, by your mercy guide our outward actions in such ways that our inward being is formed in faith, hope, and love. May the decorations we offer engage our senses during the days of Advent and enliven our praise and worship, in the name of the child of Bethlehem, our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* (twice) UMH 204

**WORDS OF PREPARATION**

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

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

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

**All: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

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

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

**All: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.**

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

**All: Glory to God in the highest!**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 OT 604

**HYMN OF EXPECTATION** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs 1-2) UMH 211

**PRESENTATION OF THE GREENS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** UMH 895

**2<sup>ND</sup> SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 61:1-3 OT 653

**HANGING OF THE MISTLETOE**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**HYMN OF THE FAITHFUL** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vs 1-2) UMH 234

**3<sup>RD</sup> SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 1:26-33 NT 52

**LIGHTING AND BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE**

**\*HYMN OF JOY** *Love Came Down at Christmas* (vs 1-3) UMH 242

**PRESENTATION OF THE POINSETTIA**

**HYMN OF DIRECTION** *We Three Kings* (v 5) UMH 254

**\*4<sup>TH</sup> SCRIPTURE READING** John 1:1-5, 9 NT 84

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**HYMN OF LIGHT** *Sing We Now of Christmas* (vs 1-5) UMH 237

**HOMILY**

**BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

One: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him and that the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

One: We pray that the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin and that this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

One: We pray that the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

One: 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, forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

**PRESENTATION OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

One: Jesus said, "I am the light of the World. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The first candle of advent is a symbol of hope. Hope is not just "positivism" or "thinking happy thoughts." Hope can be defined as "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen." Hope is grounded in a desire or expectation, not just a way of thinking. It has the full force of anticipation behind it. Hope doesn't just accept things as they are, but hope believes in the things yet to come.

**All: True hope can be found in Jesus Christ. So we can declare, "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."**

One: We need not be timid about placing our hope in Jesus, nor fear that we will be let down. Scriptures tells us "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

**All: This advent season as we anticipate the celebration of the coming Messiah's birth, may the hope of Christ fill our hearts, knowing that through faith in Christ we can have true peace with God, and we can exult in hope of the glory of God!**

One: We light this first candle to burn as a sign of hope among all people.

All: **Come, O Come, Emmanuel.**

ADVENT SONG *Light the Advent Candle* (v 1) TFWS 2090

CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

DOXOLOGY *Gloria* (chorus) UMH 238

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Mighty One, who chose from among the least and the lowliest, Mary who would become the Mother of our Savior: Remind us again that your selection criteria for greatness is so different from ours. You choose the humble over the proud, the weak over the strong, the poor over the rich and powerful. We pray this morning as we give these gifts that you might use them to lift the lowly, feed the hungry, bring justice to those oppressed, bring love to those feeling unloved, and hope to those who feel forgotten. We pray in the Holy name of Jesus. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PROMISE *People Look East* (vs 1 & 4) UMH 202

\*BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

#### Coming Worship Opportunities

December 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	White Christmas
December 12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	Angel Tree Sunday AND Lessons and Carols
December 19	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	Poinsettia Sunday
December 24	Christmas Eve	Candlelight and Communion Service (6:00 pm)
December 26	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas	Wesley Covenant Service

#### Divine Street United Methodist Church

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Dunn, NC 28335

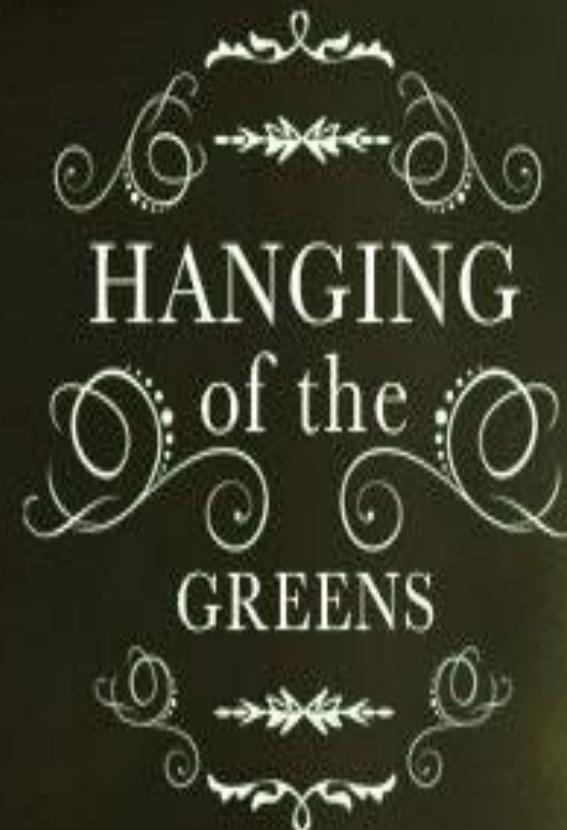
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*Resources used from umcdiscipleship.com,  
ministrymatters.com, and re:worship.com  
CCLI 20094815*

Rev. Beth Gaines, Pastor  
Mrs. Susan Smith, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Patti Queipo, Preschool Director  
Mr. Tommy Hawley, Organist



*Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.*

*Psalm 25:4*

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – HOPE**