The Hanging of the Greens



A Service of Hope

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026



Good morning and welcome to our annual Hanging of the Greens Service on this first Sunday of Advent. Advent, which literally means “the coming”, traditionally, is a season of waiting. As Christians we wait alongside Mary, expectantly and hopefully, for the coming of God in the Christ child. We wait, also, for the full coming of God’s reign on earth in the return of Christ. Our waiting, though, is by no means meant to be a time of sitting around simply marking the days off our calendars. Instead, these days of Advent are meant to be filled with an active waiting and time of preparing ourselves to meet the Lord anew.

Advent devotionals written by members of our congregation will be distributed to each family as we leave worship today. I pray these faithful words will be an inspiration to each of us as we wait together in this season praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

May the God of hope fill us with the joy and peace in believing so we might abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Andy



The Hanging of the Greens
First Presbyterian Church, Clinton, SC

Prelude *O Come, O come, Emmanuel* Jenine Yeager
Karen Buckland, Organ

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Introit *"God Grant Us Greening"* Text: M.L. Bringle
VIRIDITAS

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Andy S. Chambers

Opening Hymn/#133 *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* ADESTE FIDELES

Congregation to remain seated during 1st verse as the Advent Banner is brought in. Please stand for the remaining two verses.

Opening Prayer

Procession of the Greens

Congregational Hymn/#82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL
Congregation to remain seated.

Hear the words of the psalmist: "O sing a new song! O sing to God, all the earth!

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice, let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

Let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before God, for God comes to judge the earth.

God will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with truth."

Congregational Hymn/#104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
Congregation to remain seated.

Litany of the Evergreens

Why do we bring cedar into the house of the Lord?

Because cedar stands for the king. It is the royal tree.

Why do we bring pine and fir into the house of the Lord?

Because the leaves are evergreen, ever living, a sign of our Everlasting Lord.

What else should we use to prepare his house?

The holly and the ivy for they represent his suffering and his new life.

And what may we do to prepare our hearts for his coming?

Hear the words of faith from the New Testament: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us. That God sent his only son into the world so that we might live through him."

Praised be the name of the Lord!

The Trinity Wreath

We are a Trinitarian Church. We believe that the Triune God--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--is at the center of our faith.

The Trinity Wreath is the first of our Advent decorations. With its three circles intersecting one another, the Trinity Wreath represents our understanding of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that God exists as three persons in one substance. Three persons who together are active as the Creator, the Word, and the Spirit in all creation. Therefore, we place this wreath to symbolize God's place at the center of our faith.

Congregational Hymn/#102

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

"Savior of the Nations, Come" - verses 1&4

Congregation to remain seated.

The Jesse Tree Banner

"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."

Choral Anthem *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* arr. Michael Praetorius
Adult Choir

The Evergreens

The Mistletoe

Solo *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* Text: Christina Rosetti
Music: Gustav Holst
Hollen Chambers

The Holly Basket and Poinsettias

We say together these words from Isaiah 53:

"He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hid 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."

Call to the Offering

As we continue to reflect on the symbols of Advent and Christmas in our sanctuary, let us respond to the presence of everlasting life through God's grace and the needs of God's kingdom.

We lay down symbols of our own lives as we give our tithes and offerings to God through the work of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Our Advent Offering

Offertory Anthem *"The Holly and the Ivy"* arr. R. Shephard
Adult Choir

***Doxology**

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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Let us pray . . .

Almighty God, your ways of giving are sacrificial. Your ways of loving are filled with grace. Your ways of equipping are enriched by the power of the Holy Spirit. Bless our humble offerings this day and use them to dispel darkness with the hope and light of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Chrismon Tree

Chrismons are the symbols that represent Christ and the church. We now prepare to decorate the Christmas tree, which will contain our Chrismons--symbols of our Lord's birth and of the light that he brings. We say together a few portions of the Biblical witness to Jesus Christ, who is the life and the light. In the Gospel of John 1:4-5 we read:

"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God…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."

Choral Anthem *"O Chrismon Tree"* TANNENBAUM
Adult Choir

Organ Meditation

The Advent Wreath and the First Advent Banner

Congregational Hymn for Advent/#105

"People Look East" BESANCON
Congregation to remain seated.

Prayer for the Advent Season and The Lord's Prayer

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.

Congregational Hymn/#134

"Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

Congregation to remain seated.

The Benediction and Sending Rev. Andy S. Chambers

Choral Response *"You Shall Go Out With Joy"* The Trees of the Field

You Shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

Postlude *O Christmas Tree* Edwin McLean

Karen Buckland, Organ

Prayers for the Week

Household Prayer: Morning

God of all creation, I greet your new day with thanksgiving and praise. Do not let me neglect the needs of those I meet today, and keep me faithful to your ways, for I want to live for you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, Lord, for the gifts and challenges of this day. Where I failed to do your will, forgive me. Grant me peace throughout this night, and if I should die, welcome me into your glory with all the saints in light; in Jesus' name. Amen.



Church Family

Margaret Addison
Laura Ashley
Neile Chambers
P-Nut Dowdle
Kathy Hamer
Linda Hunter
Gin Jacobs
Dot Smith

Bereavement

Cindy Jacobs & family
Sonya Atkinson & family
Pam Warren & family
Marvine & Bill Tyler
The Goodbar family
Laurie Addison & family
Marty & Bebe Ademy
Fran Hipp

Please Remember in Prayer

Friends in Christ

Hope & Stuart Britt (Andy & Randy Sullivan's daughter and son-in-law)
Neal & Lynda Counterman (Lee Counterman's uncle & aunt)
Greg & Jennifer Davis (Friends of Laurie & Lee Counterman. Greg recovering from oral cancer surgery)
Andy Dill (Jackie Waldron's nephew)
Julie Young Keadle (Jettie & Reese Young's sister)
Kim Purcell (former FPC member)
Lannie Finley (Marty Ademy's niece)
Moonyeen Smith (Bebe Ademy's sister-in-law)
Allyson Lunsford (Neile Chambers' dear friend)
Marie McCallister (Amelia & Harrison Watkins' grandmother)
Henry McKinney (Amelia & Harrison Watkins' grandfather)
Clovis Simmons (CHS tennis coach, cancer)
David Hope (Nancy Goodbar's brother)
Windy Cox & Deborah Hui (Lee Atkinson's sisters)
Sandi & Frank Edens (Kipper Ackerman's parents)

Global Missionaries: Donald Marsden (US) and Pam (Turkey)

This Week at FPC

Sunday, November 29

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

Monday, November 30

10:00 a.m. - Staff meeting (workroom)

Tuesday, December 1

9:00 a.m. - Classics Gym Walk
10:00 a.m. - Mahjongg (Rm. 110-CLC)
5:30 p.m. - Administration Committee (library)
5:30 - 8:00 p.m. - CLC Reserved

Wednesday, December 2

6:30 p.m. - Choir practice

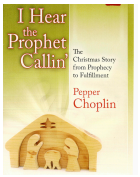
Thursday, December 3

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Christmas Drop-in @ Pres. Comm. (main dining room)

Friday, December 4

Church Office Closed

Announcements



Rehearsals for Advent music have begun, BUT it's not too late to join the Adult Choir. Our Christmas cantata is **Sunday, December 6th.** We'll be rehearsing **Wednesday evenings at 6:30** for all the Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve. For more information, please contact Hunt Cook, Interim Director of Music, at 864-923-6037/chrc6038@yahoo.com.



Thank you for the wonderful response to our Angel Tree. Please leave your angel and gift funds (if youth are shopping for you) with Carolyn or Lisa in the church office by **December 8.**



The Classics **Festival of Trees** and **Gingerbread House** outing is **December 8** in Greenville! We'll carpool from the **CLC parking lot at 9:30 a.m.** Please contact Jean (864-923-1365) or Lisa in the church office by **Monday, November 30** if you plan to attend and whether you are willing to drive. We need a headcount for lunch reservations. For more information, visit the event websites:

https://givebsmh.org/event/festival-of-trees-greenville-sc/

https://oakandhoneygvl.com/greenville-gingerbread/





The Alternative Christmas Gift Season for United Ministries is approaching. United Ministries will begin accepting your checks and list of honorees on Monday, November 30th. Your donation will assist our Laurens County neighbors with food and utilities. Each of your honorees will receive a lovely card letting them know they were remembered by you in a helpful way. The address for United Ministries is 500 Academy Street, Clinton, SC 29325.



Our annual Live Nativity presentations will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, December 22nd and 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the church yard, with our final presentation to follow the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service.

As we continue to expand our use of Realm for church communications, important worship service information will be sent directly to your email inbox through Realm each Saturday morning. These emails will include: links to the weekly bulletin, scripture readings, hymns church announcements and updates. You may also find links to the Sunday worship service and other resources available on our church website. Please be sure to watch for these emails so you can stay informed and prepared for worship each week. We appreciate your patience as we transition our communications through Constant Contact to Realm.

Church Staff

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Dr. Karen Buckland, Organist	864-833-8467	kbuck@presby.edu
Sheryl Owens, Custodian		sasowens@aol.com

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2026

Marty Ademy
Emily Holder
Bob Link
Holbrook Raynal
Andy Sullivan
Stan Walsh

Class of 2027

Lee Atkinson
Danny Cook
Amanda Donley
Chad Gambrell
Jean Johnson
Bob McLean

Class of 2028

Austin Barnes
Cyndi Coker
Charlie Gustafson
Harold Nichols
Ashley Powell
Jettie Young

Notes