



Hangings of the
Greens

DECEMBER 6, 2023
7 PM

***Please stand as you are able*

WELCOME

****OPENING HYMN**

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

#264

Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

****ADVENT LITANY**

The prophet Isaiah told of one who would prepare the people to receive the King of Glory. John the Baptist fulfilled that prophecy as he prepared Israel for the coming of the Messiah.

Prepare us to worship you, Almighty God.

We hear the voice crying out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord,” and we recognize that at times we too wander in a spiritual wilderness.

Prepare our hearts for your entry, Almighty God.

As the mountains and the valleys are transformed, God’s glory is revealed. Our lives, too, are to be transformed so that all people may see God’s glory in Jesus, our Savior.

Prepare and change us, Almighty God.

We recognize that like these greens, we will dry up and be swept away when our breath is gone. But we rejoice that the Word of the Lord goes on forever.

Prepare us to receive that Word, Almighty God.

We await the herald who brings the good tidings. We lift our voices in praise this advent season, for the Lord comes with might as the world prepares to receive its Savior.

Prepare us to recognize our Savior.

The Shepherd is coming who will feed his flock, gathering in his lambs and gently leading us down paths of righteousness in response to his call.

**Prepare us, Good Shepherd, to obey your voice.
Amen**

Please be seated.

ADVENT WREATH

Message of the Advent Wreath

Lighting of one Advent candle

Song of Blessing

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" #240

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

Prayer of Blessing

We pray together ...

O Emmanuel, bless us as we use this Advent wreath, that all who see the light of its candles will prepare their hearts and lives to receive the Christ Child. Help us to be lights in a dark world. Amen

MUSIC

Message of Music

Song of Blessing

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #270

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;

with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Prayer of Blessing

We pray together ...

Savior of the nations, come virgin's son make here your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth: God has chosen such a birth. Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity, praise we sing eternally! Amen

ADVENT PARAMENTS

Message of the Advent Paraments

Placing of Advent Paraments

Song of Blessing

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#254

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Prayer of Blessing

We pray together ...

**O King of love, bless these paraments of blue.
May they remind us of the height of the sky and
the depths of the sea and of the great height and
depth of your love. Come to us, O Lord, as you
came in love so long ago. Amen**

WREATHS

Message of the Wreaths

Placing of wreaths on wall

Song of Blessing

"O Lord, How Shall I meet You"

#241

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

Prayer of Blessing

We pray together ...

O God, whose love is without end, bless these wreaths of greens. We are surrounded by your love. May these wreaths be a sign of your love for us, and a sign of the eternal life we have in Jesus Christ. May we proclaim your presence in our midst. Amen

POINSETTIAS

Message of the Poinsettias

Placing of Poinsettias on the Altar

Song of Blessing

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

#272

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath
sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness
fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness
ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves
us
and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know;
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of
heaven
and into endless day.

Prayer of Blessing

We pray together ...

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, bless these flowers
with which we adorn your house. May they
remind us of the gift you desire of us, a life of
faithfulness to you. As your body once was
pierced by nails and a spear, pierce us with the
memory of your blood poured out in love. Amen**

CHRISTMAS TREE

Message of the Christmas Tree

Song of Blessing

"O Christmas Tree"

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
You are God's good creation.
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!

You are God's good creation.
You give your life to grace this space
In you, we see God's loving face.
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
You are God's good creation.

Prayer of Blessing

We pray together ...

**Lord Jesus, the wonder of these Christmas trees
outshines any decorations. You bless us with their
splendor. Bless now these trees, the decorations
placed upon them, and the witness that on another
tree, you will break the powers that overwhelm us,
and will fill us with gifts of life. Amen**

NATIVITY

Message of the Nativity

Song of Blessing

"Away in a Manger"

#277

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he
lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

BEYOND THE STABLE

Message Beyond the Stable

** PRAYER

** BENEDICTION

** SENDING SONG *“Hark, the Glad Sound!”* #239

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

OFFERING: No offering is collected during our worship this day; however, we do welcome your support of our ministries and thank you for your gifts. Together we make a difference in the lives of others.

Offering plates are available as you leave the sanctuary. For online giving go to the church website:

oursaviorswestsaalem.org/giving. Or text 608-471-7267. Or use the QR code.





CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

December 24 Candlelight Worship with
Communion

1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 10:00 p.m.

December 25 Christmas Worship with Communion
10:00 a.m.

ECUMENICAL CAROL SING – join us Wednesday,
December 20th at 7 PM at St. Teresa's. We join with St.
Teresa's and the Presbyterian Church of West Salem to
enjoy the carols that are so much a part of the season.

OUR THANKS to Linda Berg for providing
LOTS of music as we worshiped tonight!



THANK YOU! To those who participated in
our annual tree and church decorating this
year – Jeff & Melissa Haldeman & Weston, Clara Cody &
Amara, Carla Burkhardt, Lydia Jochen, Ty, Candice, Emelia,
Addy, & Ellie Tlustosch, Jason & Nate Stefferud. Thanks to
Jon & Lynnette Labus for once again hand-picking beautiful
Christmas trees that perfectly fit our sanctuary.

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